**Short Story Grading Rubric**

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| CATEGORY  | **Exceptional (4)** | **Good (3)** | **Fair (2)** | **Poor (1)** |
| **Setting**  | Many vivid, descriptive words are used to tell when and where the story took place.  | Some vivid, descriptive words are used to tell the audience when and where the story took place.  | The reader can figure out when and where the story took place, but the author didn't supply much detail.  | The reader has trouble figuring out when and where the story took place.  |
| **Characters**  | The main characters are named and clearly described. Most readers could describe the characters accurately.  | The main characters are named and described. Most readers would have some idea of what the characters looked like.  | The main characters are named. The reader knows very little about the characters.  | It is hard to tell who the main characters are.  |
| **Problem/Conflict**  | It is very easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.  | It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.  | It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face but it is not clear why it is a problem.  | It is not clear what problem the main characters face.  |
| **Solution/Resolution**  | The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand, and is logical. There are no loose ends.  | The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand, and is somewhat logical.  | The solution to the character's problem is a little hard to understand.  | No solution is attempted or it is impossible to understand.  |
| **Dialogue**  | There is an appropriate amount of dialogue to bring the characters to life and it is always clear which character is speaking.  | There is too much dialogue in this story, but it is always clear which character is speaking.  | There is not quite enough dialogue in this story, but it is always clear which character is speaking.  | It is not clear which character is speaking.  |
| **Organization**  | The story is very well organized. One idea or scene follows another in a logical sequence with clear transitions.  | The story is pretty well organized. One idea or scene may seem out of place. Clear transitions are used.  | The story is a little hard to follow. The transitions are sometimes not clear.  | Ideas and scenes seem to be randomly arranged.  |
| **Creativity**  | The story contains many creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has really used his/her imagination.  | The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has used his/her imagination.  | The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the story. The author has tried to use his/her imagination.  | There is little evidence of creativity in the story. The author does not seem to have used much imagination.  |
| **Mechanics**  | The story contains no errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics. | The story contains few minor errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics. | The story contains many and/or serious errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics; may interfere with reading.  | The story contains so many errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that errors block reading.  |