Fiction Content Transparency Rubric

This rubric assesses whether content presented as fiction is clearly and honestly framed as such for the audience. The goal is not to evaluate the literary quality of the work, but to measure the transparency of its presentation and prevent situations where fiction could be misinterpreted as fact.

I. Framing & Presentation (Weight: High)

This category evaluates the explicit and implicit signals within the content and its immediate context that declare its fictional nature.

Criterion	5 - Excellent	4 - Good	3 - Fair	2 - Poor	1 - Very Poor	0 - Unacceptable
Explicit Labeling	A clear and prominent label (e.g., "Fiction," "Satire," "Parody," "Creative Writing") is placed at the beginning of the content.	The content is explicitly categorized as fiction, but the label is less prominent (e.g., a small category tag, a disclaimer in the footer).	The fictional nature is not explicitly labeled but is strongly implied by section headers or titles (e.g., "A Short Story," "Humor Column").	No explicit or implicit labels are used. The audience must rely entirely on external context or stylistic cues.	The content lacks labels and is presented using a format and layout that mimics factual reporting (e.g., a standard news article template).	The content includes false claims of being factual (e.g., "Based on a true story," when it is not).
Content & Stylistic Cues	The style, tone, and subject matter are unambiguously non-factual (e.g., surrealism, fantasy, science fiction). It would be unreasonabl	The content contains highly improbable elements or a clearly satirical/humorous tone that signals its non-factual nature to a critical reader.	The style is that of realistic fiction. The events are plausible and the tone is serious, making the fictional nature not obvious from the text alone.	The style deliberately mimics journalistic, academic, or official report writing, potentially including fabricated quotes or data.	The content uses emotionally charged narratives or conspiracy tropes designed to feel true, blurring the line between plausible fiction and reality.	The content is a fabrication involving real people in fictionalized, harmful situations, presented as an authentic account.

	e for an average reader to interpret it as fact.				

II. Publisher & Platform Context (Weight: High)

This category analyzes the environment in which the content is published to determine if the source itself signals a fictional intent.

Criterion	5 - Excellent	4 - Good	3 - Fair	2 - Poor	1 - Very Poor	0 - Unacceptable
Publisher's Primary Purpose	Published on a platform exclusively dedicated to fiction, satire, or art (e.g., a literary journal, a well-known satire site, an art portfolio).	Published in a clearly marked "Fiction," "Arts," or "Opinion" section of a general-interest publication that has a clear demarcation from its news reporting.	Published on a mixed-use platform (e.g., a personal blog, social media) where the author has an established history of posting fiction, but the platform itself is neutral.	Published in a context that typically hosts factual information (e.g., a news aggregator, a political forum) without clear categorical separation.	Published by a source that mimics the branding, URL, and style of a legitimate news organization to appear credible.	Published by a source with a known history of creating and disseminating disinformation by intentionally blurring the lines between fiction and reality.