

Introduction (Mission statement):

Ratings are not meant to classify the text as **appropriate or inappropriate**. Rather, they are simply a way of indicating the kind of content that is included or implied in the text to assist readers in making informed decisions on what level of horror they want to read.

Overview:

1. The maturity ratings are based off of the MPAA movie rating categories, but since we are using short text blurbs (a different medium), each category has been thoroughly clarified. You can think of these ratings as a structural guide/last resort, but be sure to reference the specific classifications written below
2. Only one label per story (text in indexed column). A text entree can only be R if it has R rated violence not (R with PG-13 sex)
3. There are 5 factors to consider when deciding on a category, a story is given a classification if one or more factors meet the criteria (ie a movie with R violence and PG-13 sex is assigned R)
4. Think of the labels as a number line with G being the least intense and NC-17 being the most intense in any category.

G —> PG —> PG-13 —> R —> NC-17

5. The data has been filtered by the moderators of the subreddit so does not include stuff that violates Reddit's content policy. (direct threats, sexualization of minors, and mentions of current events.)
6. Stories are meant to be scary, take the minimum most likely threatening interpretation (the little girl getting picked up by a strange man in a van is being kidnapped, not carpooled)

The Factors:

- Language: profanity, crude humor, reading difficulty
- Drugs: drug and alcohol use
- Sex: kissing, nudity, sex and intimacy, sensuality
- Violence: violent acts (ie kicking, stabbing) directed at self or others (including non-human)

- Abuse: physical, mental, psychological, verbal, etc.

The Ratings:

G

[Brief def] All ages

- **Language**
 - Almost no offensive language whatsoever, anything that doesn't belong in other ratings
 - Exclamations: oh my! Bother!
 - Implied exclamation that could potentially be a swear: "oh –" followed by *interruption*
 - Vague anatomy: down there, bottom, behind...
- **Drugs**
 - No mention whatsoever
 - Very very vague connection (noting a beer can on the ground)
- **Sex**
 - Hand-holding, I love you's, a kiss on the cheek, weekly implied (offscreen) kissing/making out.
- **Violence**
 - Someone who has died can be mentioned (the guy's late wife)
 - Death that isn't final or sad (I died and became a ghost and now open doors to scare people)
 - Striking inanimate objects
 - Loud noises
 - Monster creatures described in little to no detail (the monster waited)
- **Abuse**
 - The vaguest of mentions (she was hurt by the bad man)
 - There are cruel people
 - No specifically implied types of abuse, no off-screen impending abuse
 - Bullying as a bad thing that exists, but described in the most minimal detail

PG

[brief def] Can be frightening for some children, suggested to receive adult guidance

- **Language**
 - Self censored/vague anatomy descriptions: p*nis, groin, butt
 - Weak swears mentioned <2 times: piss, shoot, damn, heck...
 - Direct mentions of groups responsible for atrocities: nazis, kkk, terrorists

- Heavily censored swears: f**k, h-e-double hockey sticks
- Strongly implied swears: oh f—
- **Drugs**
 - Allusions to the existence of drugs/alcohol/addiction (he was glued to his phone like an addict/ named person addicted to drugs)
 - The presence of drugs/alcohol not central to the plot (poisoned wine could be replaced by poisoned water)
 - As a secondary detail (the adults all had wine and the children had apple cider)
- **Sex**
 - Vaguely Implied sex (“Let’s head to the bedroom, he winked”)
 - Kissing
 - Minimal touching (stroking someone’s back, hand around waist)
 - Finding a character attractive (excluding pedophilia)
- **Violence**
 - Dead characters exist in an emotional/plot centric manner (ie, brother who has died recently, mother’s funeral)
 - Death exists as finality (no happy out through being a ghost)
 - Main character can die (not violently)(was in a coma and heard the last beeps fade out as she grew tired)
 - Monster characters with creepy descriptions (long slimy spindly hands)
 - Vague spying, stalking, hunting
 - Characters can express vague violent desires provided they don't act on them (wanting to kill/hurt someone)
 - Killing, thoughts of revenge, can be discussed vaguely (Able to move objects as a ghost, he had finally got revenge on the person who had killed him with his favorite rock.)
 - No described collective death (bombs, apocalypse), can be vague like (looking up at the sky, she realized it was the end)
- **Abuse**
 - Minimal verbal abuse
 - Implied types of abuse, though the story functions with any type
 - Mentioning that a character has been abused/abusive
 - Bullying (as long as not overly graphic)

PG-13

[brief def] Children under 13 years of age strongly recommended to receive adult guidance

- **Language**

- More than 2 weak swears: piss, shoot, damn, heck...
- 1 strong curse word: Fuck, shit, hell, dick...
- Self censored strong curse words to one letter more than once: F*ck, sh*t
- Vague sex/anatomy jokes/descriptions: penis, vagina...

- **Drugs**

- Some drug use
- Common drug use (e.g. smoking weed, snorting cocaine)
- Addiction (Not overly graphic, can be named something a character suffers from)
- Desire to use drugs

- **Sex**

- Common sex acts
- No toplessness or bottomlessness

- **Violence**

- "Offscreen" or implied violent acts (e.g. shooting the head, suicide, torture)
- Not too bloody
- Relatively common violent acts (stabbing vs castration which is seen as more cruel and disturbing)
- Not too many or too graphic (ie extreme states of mutilation or decay) corpses, characters not in close proximity to dead bodies (ie not being covered by dead soldiers in a trench, but seeing some corpses on the ground is fine)
- Implied violence against children
- Weapons (guns, knives)
- Vague extreme violence (Nukes in the form of a bright flash)
- The

- **Abuse**

- Offscreen or implied acts towards children, adults, animals (e.g. child is implied to have been eaten or killed)
- Not sexual (or very loosely implied if so)

R

[brief def] Children under 17 required to receive adult guidance

- **Language**

- More than one mention of strong curse words: Fuck, shit, hell...
- Slurs: Racial, Gender, Sexuality, Ethnicity
- Graphic sex jokes and descriptions of sex acts

- **Drugs**
 - Uncommon or explicit drug use (e.g. describing vein injection)
 - Graphic and detailed descriptions of addiction
- **Sex**
 - Fully described Sex
 - Specific, especially obscure types of pornography
- **Violence**
 - Violent acts (e.g. shooting the head, suicide, torture) that aren't implied or off screen
 - Graphic corpses
 - Depiction of violence against children
 - Illusions to miscarriage
- **Abuse**
 - Acts toward children that aren't implied or off-screen (e.g. killing a child) but aren't described in too much detail
 - Corpse mutilation
 - Described abuse of adults, animals

NC-17

[brief def] Not intended for children under 17, with or without adult guidance

- **Language**

Nothing separates this from R, you can't have language exclusively so offensive it would end up in this category.
- **Drugs**
- **Sex**
 - Graphic or prolonged sex acts
- **Violence**
 - Extreme violence against children
 - Extreme cruelty (e.g. explicitly described unconventional torture)
- **Abuse**
 - Explicitly described abuse against children