

# SHORT FICTION

**Format:** Online

**Early Submission Requirements:**

- Competitors must submit their Short Fiction piece and written statement 2 weeks before the Regional Tournament.

**Registration Guidelines:**

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition.
2. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

**Procedure:**

1. Competitors must identify a target audience on the title page.
2. The piece must clearly relate back to the theme but also be applicable to a general audience.
3. No forms of AI are permitted for this competition. Any usage is grounds for point loss and/or disqualification.
4. PDF copy of the short fiction piece must be submitted via MyMIST two weeks before the Regional Tournament.
  - a. Late submissions will result in a point deduction on your final score.
5. This will be an entirely virtual competition. As such, competitors are not required to turn in a copy during the tournament.
  - a. Entries should be typed in black ink only.
6. All submissions must:
  - a. Be double-spaced.
  - b. Have a cover page with the title, MIST ID, and intended audience age group only. The competitor name or other identifying markers must not appear anywhere on the submission.
  - c. Be typed on 8.5 X 11 inch paper.
  - d. No more than 10 pages (exclusive of title page and written statement), Times New Roman, 12 pt font.
  - e. Include a written statement based on the interview questions
7. Competitors will be judged according to the Short Fiction Ballot.

**Checklist:**

- PDF copy of written Short Fiction piece and written statement submitted on MyMIST 2 weeks prior to the tournament.
- Written statement based on interview questions (Section D of Short Fiction Ballot).
- Both the submission and the written statement should be clearly labeled with:
  - MIST IDs
  - Name of Competition

# DETAILED BALLOT: SHORT FICTION

## Section A: Technical

Points: 5

- Short Fiction piece does not exceed 10 (ten) pages.
- There are no identifiers on the submission aside from their MIST ID.

## Section B: Content

### Conventions

Points: 5

- Is the piece mostly free of spelling mistakes?
- Is the piece mostly free of punctuation mistakes?
- Is the piece mostly free of grammatical mistakes?

### Ideas and Development

Points: 15

- Did the writer address the theme in a clear manner?
- Did the writer take a unique approach when addressing the theme?
- Did the writer stay on topic throughout the entire submission?
- Was the main idea or message clear to the reader?

### Organization

Points: 10

- Is the title relevant and applicable to the story?
- Does the story have a logical series of events?
- Were there adequate details that led to a natural flow between introduction, plot, climax, and resolution?
- Were the paragraphs well-developed with natural transitions?
- Was the story original, not falling into cliché story lines?

### Sentence Fluency

Points: 15

- Did the writer vary sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences?
- Do most sentences begin with different words?
- When read aloud, do the sentences flow well together?
- Was dialogue used where appropriate?

## Section C: Style

### Word Choice

Points: 20

- Did the writer use thoughtful adjectives to create more vivid imagery?
- Did the writer use strong action verbs to support the essay's message (i.e. "cruise" instead of "drive," or "stroll" instead of "walk")?
- Did the writer use precise nouns to help present a clear and distinct message (i.e. "7th Grade students" instead of just "students," or "Science project" instead of "project")?
- Was the dialogue formatted in an appropriate way?
- Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the writing? Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

### Voice

Points: 15

- Was the writer able to distinguish a clear voice in the story?
- Is the tone natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression?
- Does the writer capture a tone or mood with his/her words?
- Does the writer appropriately reach the target audience?

## Section D: Application of Theme

### Written Statement

Points: 15

- There is a strong, clearly evident relevance to the theme.
- The theme is expressed in a unique or outstanding way.
- Purpose and inspiration of writings are clearly articulated and show evidence of reflection and/or research.
- Short Fiction piece is easily understandable for Muslim and non-Muslim alike.

# SHORT FICTION BALLOT

		Subtotal
<b>Section A</b>	Technical	_____ / 5 points
<b>Section B</b>	Conventions	_____ / 5 points
<b>Section B</b>	Ideas and Development	_____ / 15 points
<b>Section B</b>	Organization	_____ / 10 points
<b>Section B</b>	Sentence Fluency	_____ / 15 points
<b>Section C</b>	Word Choice	_____ / 20 points
<b>Section C</b>	Voice	_____ / 15 points
<b>Section D</b>	Overall Experience	_____ / 15 points

Total: \_\_\_\_\_/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback

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