

Central Ohio Fiction Writers

IGNITE THE FLAME CONTEST

A rewarding competition for unpublished manuscripts

Score Sheet to Be Complete by Judges

TOTAL SCORE (OF 110 POSSIBLE):

Entry Number:

Title:

Judge Number:

Name of Judge (optional):

Please put an "X" behind the status that applies to you:

Published in romance fiction with (house) _____

Published in non-fiction

Reader

Contest Finalist

Contest winner

RWA Pro

Agented

Scale for judging:

5 = excellent (publishable quality with minor flaws that are barely noticeable).

4 = very good (needs some minor revision to really make the manuscript sparkle.

3 = average (good but needs polish or lacks a quality that makes it stand out).

2 = needs improvement (serious revision recommended).

1 = consider major revision.

****Please offer a recommendation for improvement for any score under a 5.****

First impressions (Total 15 points).

Presentation/Professionalism (10 points). ____

Is the entry presented in a professional manner (grammar, spelling, punctuation)?

Is the entry formatting in line with contest requirements listed on the website?

Beginning and ending of scene (5 points). ____

Does the scene have an interesting opening which grabs the reader's attention and end with something that makes the reader want to turn the page?

Comments:

Igniting the Flame (Total 15 points).

Hero (5 points). ____

Is the hero three-dimensional and likeable with believable traits and flaws that don't interfere with the scene?

Heroine (5 points). ____

Is the heroine three-dimensional and likeable with believable traits and flaws that don't interfere with the scene?

The Flame (5 points). ____

Is the relationship between the hero and heroine believable and exciting, with emotional and physical possibilities that create a spark of awareness between them either positive or negative?

Comments:

Goals, Motivations and Conflicts (Total 15 points).

Goals (5 points). ____

Do the characters have clear cut goals that could sustain a story?

Motivations (5 points). ____

Do the characters have believable motivations for their actions and are their actions logical for the situation?

Conflict (5 points). ____

Can the reader easily determine what's at stake for both the hero and the heroine with internal and external conflicts recognizable that are strong enough to be sustainable throughout the story?

Comments:

Telling the story (Total 40 points).

Setting (5 points). ____

Is a sense of time and place established with the setting easy to picture without being intrusive and use multiple senses to create a vivid picture?

Dialogue (5 points). ____

Does the dialogue move the story forward sounding natural and realistic and have a good balance with the narrative?

Narrative (5 points). ____

Does the narrative move the story forward or is it bogged down with backstory or unnecessary description?

Point of View (10 points). ____

Are point of view changes well done and important without bouncing from character to character in a distracting manner?

Is dialogue tagging easy to follow?

Pacing (5 points). ____

Does the pacing flow well throughout the entry and push the story forward holding the reader's interest?

The Voice/tone (5 points). ____

Is the author's presentation of the story smooth and interesting, using a fresh and unique voice with a consistent tone throughout the entry?

Showing vs. Telling (5 points). ____

Are actions and emotions shown rather than told and pull the reader into the scene as opposed to feeling as though reading a journal entry of something that happened in the past?

Comments:

Other elements (Total 15 points):

Accuracy/believability (5 points). ____

If research elements are in the story, are they interesting, accurate, and important? If no research is evident, is the world/setting created believable?

Plot (5 points). ____

Has the writer developed a fresh plot or a new twist on a traditional plot?

Final Comments: