

Reading 6

Short Story Rubric

Note to Instructor: Use the following rubric to guide your assessment of each criteria category of your student's Short Story composition. (This rubric is an expansion of the Completed Story rubric used for the rough draft evaluation.) Write comments on the back, if needed. Total your student's score. This project is worth 50 points. Bonus points are available for an exceptional effort.

Criteria	Excellent 5 points	Good 4 points	Passing 3 points	Poor 2–0 points	Score
Planning and Revising	Story is well-ordered and exhibits thoughtful planning.	Story is fairly organized and/or exhibits some planning.	Story is somewhat organized and/or exhibits little planning.	Story is disorganized and exhibits no planning.	
Introduction	Story has an engaging beginning that grabs the reader's attention.	Story has an interesting beginning that gets the reader's attention.	Story has a beginning that may get the reader's attention.	Story has a beginning that does not get the reader's attention.	
Characters	Characters are creative and continue to develop throughout the story. Characters have a specific purpose within the plot.	Characters are introduced and somewhat developed. Most characters have a specific purpose within the plot.	Characters are introduced but not developed well. Most characters have no purpose within the plot.	Characters are introduced but not developed and/or too many characters confuse the plot.	
Setting	Details of setting are creative, established early and developed throughout the story.	Details of setting are established early and developed throughout the story.	Details of setting are vague and not well-developed throughout the story.	Details of setting are inconsistent and/or not developed throughout the story.	
Plot	Story has all five of the following: an inciting incident, rising action, a crisis, falling action, and a resolution.	Story has four of the following: an inciting incident, rising action, a crisis, falling action, and a resolution.	Story has three of the following: an inciting incident, rising action, a crisis, falling action, and a resolution.	Story has two or less of the following: an inciting incident, rising action, a crisis, falling action, and a resolution.	
Conflict	Story has a complex conflict and clear resolution.	Story has a clear conflict and resolution.	Story has a vague conflict and resolution.	Story has a confusing conflict and/or incomplete resolution.	
Theme/Message	Story communicates a well-thought theme/message throughout the story.	Story communicates a clear theme/message.	Story communicates an ambiguous theme/message.	Story does not communicate any theme/message.	
Ending	Story has a believable ending that is satisfying.	Story has a fairly believable ending that is satisfying.	Story has a slightly believable ending that is not satisfying.	Story lacks a believable and/or satisfying ending.	
Mechanics	Student reveals excellent command of spelling, grammar and vocabulary.	Student reveals good command of spelling, grammar and vocabulary.	Student lacks consistent command of spelling, grammar and vocabulary.	Student lacks command of spelling, grammar and vocabulary.	
Language	Story displays creative use of descriptions, dialogue, and action.	Story displays an attempt to use descriptions, dialogue, and action.	Story displays little use of descriptions, dialogue, and action.	Story displays no use of descriptions, dialogue, and action.	
Bonus	The student uses more difficult literary elements (such as irony, mood, and foreshadowing).	The student uses some difficult literary elements (such as humor, allusion, or metaphors).	The student uses simple literary elements (such as similes, imagery, or alliteration).	The student uses few or no literary elements.	
A = 50–45 B = 44–40 C = 39–35 D = 34–30 F = 27–0					Total Score: