

2023 RRPL Writing Contest Assessment Rubric

	Distinguished 4 points	Proficient 3 points	Apprentice 2 points	Novice 1 point
Theme	The writer's short story or poem is organized and revolves around a clear central idea/theme.	Part of the writer's short story or poem relates to a central theme or idea.	An idea or theme is mentioned in the short story or poem, but the story is confusing and disorganized.	The poem or short story is disorganized, confusing, and does not revolve around a theme or central idea.
Originality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is based on an original idea. • Writing includes many elements of originality. For example, a unique voice or an unexpected outcome. • Writing is not at all trite or predictable. It displays freshness and excitement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is based on an original idea. • Writing includes some elements of originality. • Writing goes well beyond being trite or predictable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is evidence of original thought, but the idea is not wholly original. For example, an existing character in an original plot. • Writing displays an element of originality. • Writing goes beyond being trite and predictable in general. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing feels like a retelling rather than an original idea. • Writing doesn't display elements of originality. • Writing seems trite and predictable.
Creative Expression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is expressive, including literary devices, figurative language and many creative details and/or detailed descriptions that engage the reader and contribute to the reader's enjoyment. • The author has really used their imagination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is expressive, including some figurative language, creative details and/or detailed descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. • The author has used their imagination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing includes a few descriptive words and creative details and includes efforts at figurative language but they distract from the poem/story. Needs improvement to engage the reader. • The author has tried to use imagination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is very simple and lacks the creative enhancements needed to engage the reader. • The author does not seem to have used much imagination.
Composition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing is well organized and unified with effective transitions. • Sentences are carefully crafted to create fluidity, interest and variety. • If mistakes in grammar and spelling are made, they were made on purpose to advance the poem or story. Otherwise, there are no grammatical, word choice and spelling errors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing is generally organized and unified. Effective transitions are used, but there may be lapses. • Sentences are effective with some variety. • There are one or two grammatical or word choice and spelling errors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The piece, while coherent, does not demonstrate an understanding of the audience's need for logic and order. Some awkward transitions. • Sentence structure is generally simple with little attempt at variety and fluidity. • There are several (3-4) grammatical and word choice and spelling errors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The piece is not organized and is therefore hard to understand. • Sentences are simple or fragmented. • Due to numerous (5+) grammatical and word choice and spelling errors, the writing is very difficult to understand.
Title	Title is creative, sparks interest and is related to the poem / short story and topic.	Title is related to the poem / short story and topic.	Title is present but does not appear to be related to the poem / short story and topic.	No title.
Story Structure / Poetry: Rhyme, Meter and Feel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer introduces the characters, setting and story problem in a particularly skilled way. • The writer resolves the story problem in a particularly satisfying way. • In poetry, if rhyme is used, achieves consistent rhyme and is an intentionally effective pattern. If free verse, it is effective and creates an internal sense in the reader that this is poetry. • Poetry lines flow very smoothly with no inappropriate awkwardness. • Poem achieves much more than could be done with prose. It has depth and makes the reader realize it means more than it says. It reaches the heart of the reader, evoking a response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer introduces the characters, setting and story problem. • The writer resolves the story problem. • In poetry, if rhyme is used, it is mostly consistent without forcing or sacrificing meaning. If free verse, it is mostly effective and creates an internal sense in the reader that this is poetry. • Poetry lines flow relatively smoothly with little awkwardness. • Poem does have some depth and means more than it says to the reader but does not really reach the heart of the reader or evoke a response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer introduces the characters, setting and story problem. • The writer attempts to resolve the story problem but wanders off-course or the resolution feels unsatisfying. • In poetry, if rhyme is used, some words seem forced, but don't really sacrifice the meaning of the sentences. If free verse, it is somewhat effective and mostly creates an internal sense in the reader that this is poetry. • Poetry lines move somewhat smoothly and awkwardly. • Poem does achieve more than could be achieved in prose and has some depth and seems to mean more than it says to the reader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer does not introduce the characters, setting and story problem or does so in a very confusing way. • The writer does not even attempt to resolve the story problem. • In poetry, if rhyme is used, words do not fit the meaning of the sentences. If free verse, it is not effective and does not create an internal sense in the reader that this is poetry. • Poetry lines do not move smoothly and have inappropriate awkwardness. • Poem does not do anything that could not be achieved just as well in prose. It lacks depth and does not seem to mean more than it says to the reader.
Total Score:				