

2024 Creative Writing Contest Rubric for Grades 1-2

Element	Excellent 4	Strong 3	Fair 2	Developing 1
Story Structure	Logical communication of the topic	All sentences are about the same topic	Ideas are random without single topic	Ideas are unclear
Characters and Settings	Characters and/or settings are developed	Characters and/or settings are known	Characters and/or settings are indicated	No indication of characters or settings
Word Choice	Many colorful adjectives, action verbs and interesting phrases	A few interesting word choices are used	General or common words are used	Simple words using a minimal vocabulary are used
Idea	Ideas are well developed	Most ideas are developed	Some ideas are developed	Ideas are random
Voice	Word choices and organization create a clear voice identity	Voice identity is somewhat developed	Voice identity is not always clear	No identified voice to the writing
Sentences and Paragraphs*	Writes paragraphs of 5-6 complete sentences	Writes paragraphs of 3-4 complete sentences	Writes paragraphs 1 or 2 complete sentences	Paragraphs have no complete sentences
Spelling	Known words are spelled correctly. A few words use phonetic spelling	Spells most known words correctly. Many words are spelled phonetically	4 or more known spelling words missed	Most words misspelled or spelled phonetically
Mechanics (Grammar and Punctuation)	Uses nouns and verbs correctly. Starts all sentences with capitals. Uses periods, question marks and exclamation marks correctly	Misuses difficult or plural nouns and verb tenses. Most sentences start with capitals and end with a period	Does not correctly use plurals or proper nouns, and/or verb tenses	Uses nouns and verbs incorrectly
Overall Presentation	Legible. Neat. Grade appropriate length	Writing is sometimes not legible or neat. Length is appropriate for grade level	Work is messy. Length may not be appropriate for grade level	Unable to read.

*Grade level appropriate

Total Score _____ (9-36 points)

Word Count (if short story) _____