

2024 Creative Writing Contest Rubric for Grades 3-5

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 with details and action	Characters and/or settings are made known through details	Characters and/or settings are indicated	No indication of characters or settings
Sentences and Paragraphs*	Writes several paragraphs of 5- 6 complete sentences. Complex and compound sentences are used without run-ons or fragments	5-6 complete sentences in two or more paragraphs. A few run-ons or fragments are evident in compound sentences	5-6 complete sentences. Several run-ons or fragments are evident in compound sentences	3-4 complete sentences. Compound or complex sentences may not be evident
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
Spelling	Few or no spelling errors	A few errors in each paragraph	4 or more errors per paragraph	Many words misspelled
Idea	Ideas are well developed	Most ideas are developed	Some ideas are developed	Ideas are not developed
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
Mechanics (Grammar and Punctuation)	Uses nouns and verbs correctly. Starts all sentences with capitals. Uses punctuation correctly	Misuses difficult and plural nouns, and verb tenses. Most sentences start with capitals and end with a period	Does not correctly use plurals, proper nouns, and/or verb tenses. Punctuation and capitalization used inconsistently	Uses nouns and verbs incorrectly. Little or no punctuation or capitalization
Overall Presentation	Legible. Neat. Grade appropriate length	Writing is sometimes not legible or neat. Length is appropriate for grade.	Work is messy. Length may not be appropriate for grade level	Unable to read.

*Grade level appropriate length, from 5-6 sentences to several paragraphs.

Total Score _____ (9-36 points)

Word Count (if short story) _____