**Short Story Writing Rubric**

As a way of assessing your comprehension of some of the main literary elements that we have analyzed in the stories we’ve read, you are going to write a short story consisting of a minimum of 1500 words. The main literary elements that must be included within your story are **setting**, **conflict, theme, characterization, dialogue** and **mood**. Anyone who reads your story should be able to identify these elements within your story, so you must write them in a way that is evident. Please read the following rubric carefully to understand how you will be graded on this project.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Points** | **12** | **8** | **4** | **0** |
| **Setting** | Setting is not overly descriptive. The setting is revealed through the right number of text details. The writer “shows” and doesn’t “tell.” | Setting may be a bit too descriptive. 2-4 unnecessary details are shared OR setting is under-descriptive, lacking 2-4 necessary details. | Setting is way too descriptive. The writer tells about the setting instead of showing the reader OR the setting is highly under described. | There is no setting.  |
| **Conflict** | There is conflict-both internal and external-among characters that the reader can easily discern from the reading the story. This helps the reader identify a theme.  | There is only one conflict present among the characters in the story. This helps the reader identify a theme. | There is conflict present among the characters in the story, but it too subtlety stated and does not contribute to any identifiable theme.  | There is no apparent conflict between characters that would help the reader identify a theme. |
| **Theme** | There is clearly a theme even though it isn’t stated directly. The theme is revealed through the conflict and text details. The writer “shows” and doesn’t “tell.” | Theme may be a bit unclear OR it is a bit too obviously stated.  | Theme is really unclear or it is directly stated in the text.  | There is no theme.  |
| **Characterization**The characters are indirectly revealed through their actions, words, and appearance.  | The characters are clearly revealed through actions, words, and appearance. The reader can clearly understand who the character is.  | The characters are partially revealed through some actions, words, and feelings. The reader mostly understands who the characters are, but 1-2 characteristics might be unclear OR the characters’ traits are just stated outright.  | The characters are barely revealed through a few actions, words, and feelings. The reader hardly understands who the character is. | The characters are unclear or confusing. It is hard to tell who the character is.  |
| **Dialogue** | The characters’ dialogue is substantial and appropriately stated and written. The reader can easily identify what character is speaking the order that they are speaking.  | The characters’ dialogue is sparse but appropriately written. The reader may have some difficulty understanding who is speaking and what order that they are speaking. | There is little dialogue expressed by the characters in the story, but its attribution is confusing to the reader and not appropriately written.  | There is no written dialogue.  |
| **Mood** | The characters, conflict, and the expressed dialogue in the story contribute to a specific mood that the reader can easily identify.  | The characters, conflict, and the expressed dialogue in the story can lead the reader to identify several possible moods. | There is only a small semblance of mood, but the reader may become by unsure and confused by the writers vague use of characterization, conflict, and dialogue.  | There is no apparent mood that can be identified by the reader.  |
|  | **3** | **2** | **1** | **0** |
| **Grammar and Spelling** | Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content. | Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract from the content. |

**Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/ 48**

When submitting your story, you must adhere to the following formatting guidelines:

* Standard heading
* An appropriate Title
* Only size 12 font
* 1.5 line Spacing
* Narrow Margins
* Page Numbers
* 1500 words typed (minimum 1200)
* Times New Roman (or something very similar)

**Point Total: \_\_\_\_\_\_/75**

**Comments:**

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