Short Story Grading Rubric

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

CATEGORY	Exceptional 5	Good 4	Fair 3	Poor 2	Points Earned
Characters	The main characters are named and clearly described. Most readers could describe the characters accurately.	The main characters are named and described. Most readers would have some idea of what the characters looked like.	The main characters are named. The reader knows very little about the characters.	It is hard to tell who the main characters are.	
Setting	Many vivid, descriptive words are used to tell when and where the story took place.	Some vivid, descriptive words are used to tell the audience when and where the story took place.	The reader can figure out when and where the story took place, but the author didn't supply much detail.	The reader has trouble figuring out when and where the story took place.	
Engaging Beginning	Beginning of story has a very creative "grabber". The reader's is pulled into the story.	Beginning of story has some type of "grabber". The reader is pulled into the story.	Catchy beginning was attempted but did not grab the reader's attention.	No attempt was made to catch the reader's attention in the beginning of the story. Story begins abruptly or awkwardly.	
Inciting Incident/Rising Actions	It is very easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face but it is not clear why it is a problem.	It is not clear what problem the main characters face.	
Climax	It is very easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face but it is not clear why it is a problem.	It is not clear what problem the main characters face.	
Falling Action	The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand, and is logical. There are no loose ends.	The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand, and is somewhat logical.	The solution to the character's problem is a little hard to understand.	No solution is attempted or it is impossible to understand.	

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Resolution	The writer ends the piece with a sense of solid closure that inspires reader reflection. There are no loose ends.	The writer ends the piece with a solid sense of closure. There are no loose ends.	The solution to the character's problem is a little hard to understand. The story doesn't quite feel completed yet. More detail and description are needed to fully bring the story to a close.	No solution is attempted or it is impossible to understand. OR the writer ends the piece with "to be continued," an inappropriate cliffhanger	
Organization	The story is very well organized. One idea or scene follows another in a logical sequence with clear transitions.	The story is pretty well organized. One idea or scene may seem out of place. Clear transitions are used.	The story is a little hard to follow. The transitions are sometimes not clear.	Ideas and scenes seem to be randomly arranged.	
Creativity	The story contains many creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has really used his/her imagination.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has used his/her imagination.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the story. The author has tried to use his/her imagination.	There is little evidence of creativity in the story. The author does not seem to have used much imagination.	
Requirements	All of the written requirements (typed, double spaced, # of pages, font, margins) were met. Title page has the title, author's name, grade, illustration.	Almost all (about 90%) the written requirements were met. Title page has the title, author's name, grade, illustration.	Most (about 75%) of the written requirements were met, but several were not. Title page has the 3 of the 4 required elements.	Many requirements were not met. Title page has fewer than 3 of the required elements.	
Total Number of Points					**/50**