

## Mystery Short Story Rubric

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<p><b>Ideas and Content:</b>            Story includes characters, setting, clues, and misleading clues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mystery elements are well-developed.</li> <li>Use of characters, clues, and misleading clues are creative, surprising, original, and appropriate.</li> <li>Major and minor characters are fully-developed and add flavor to the story.</li> <li>Setting appropriately enhances the plot.</li> <li>An appropriate number of logical and subtle clues match with the setting and plot.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All mystery elements are included and most are fairly well-developed.</li> <li>Use of characters, clues, and misleading clues is appropriate.</li> <li>The mystery has some well-developed major characters.</li> <li>Setting is appropriate for the plot.</li> <li>Clues are logical and match the setting and the plot.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One or two mystery elements are well-developed while others may be described superficially.</li> <li>Some characters, clues, and misleading clues are frequently unbelievable or undeveloped.</li> <li>The setting is inappropriate, vague, or not mixed in with the plot.</li> <li>There are few clues, and they are obvious and unsurprising.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Few mystery elements are included in the story.</li> <li>Characters are unbelievable and/or poorly written.</li> <li>Setting is not described or is inappropriate for the plot.</li> <li>There are no clues or misleading clues.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Organization:</b>            Story is easy for the reader to follow, has a clear beginning and ending, and has a logical storyline.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mystery story grabs the readers' attention immediately and holds it throughout the story.</li> <li>Story has several "cliffhangers" that make the reader want to keep reading.</li> <li>The logical, yet surprising, storyline keeps readers' attention.</li> <li>The ending pulls the story together in a suspenseful manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story invites the reader in.</li> <li>Story is easy for the reader to follow.</li> <li>Story has logical storyline.</li> <li>Ending makes sense and leaves the readers satisfied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginning or ending is weak and the reader struggles to get started or finish the story.</li> <li>The story is not logical in places.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reader can not follow the direction of the story.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voice:</b>            Story is appealing, full of the unusual and unexpected, and natural</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story has voice that is intriguing and appealing.</li> <li>The mystery story was written to be enjoyed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story has voice that is expressive and honest.</li> <li>Story appeals to the reader.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story has voice that is artificial and insincere.</li> <li>Writer has no sense of the reader.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story has voice that is mechanical and lifeless. The story is flat.</li> </ul>

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to read.				
<b>Word Choice:</b> Story has interesting words, strong imagery, and uses the language of mystery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Story shows creative use of intriguing, interesting, and surprising language, especially strong verbs and nouns that add to the mystery.</li> <li>• Word choice builds suspense and adds to the voice and content of the story.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language is creative.</li> <li>• Word choice is natural to mystery story.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a few uses of creative language.</li> <li>• Some words are used incorrectly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language is vague and redundant.</li> <li>• Words are used incorrectly.</li> <li>• It is hard for the reader to make sense of the words.</li> </ul>
<b>Sentence Fluency:</b> Story is easy to read aloud, has good phrasing, and varied sentence length.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentences are varied in length and structure.</li> <li>• Good phrases and sentence structure are used throughout the story.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence structure is varied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence patterns are repetitious.</li> <li>• Some sentences are either too long or too short.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence structure is awkward.</li> <li>• Sentences are either too long or too short.</li> </ul>
<b>Conventions:</b> Story has correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are no convention errors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few slight convention errors do not take away from the content of the story.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convention errors detract from meaning and the content of the story.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many convention errors. Story makes no sense because of so many convention errors.</li> </ul>