

SHORT STORY RUBRIC

Aspect	Excellent (10)	Adequate (6)	Poor (2)
PACING/PLOT (15 pts)	Events progress in a compelling, understandable manner. Story is well paced, and includes all of the major aspects of the plot diagram. A clear problem exists, the story has a distinct climax, and leads to a denouement.	At times, events progress in an erratic or confusing manner, but for the most part the story is cohesive and focused. Story includes all major aspects of the plot diagram, though some parts may be unclear or difficult to discern.	Story is confusing or unclear. Events progress in a manner that does not make sense. Major aspects of plot are missing or indistinct.
CHARACTERS (10 pts)	Story includes at least one dynamic, well rounded, unique character that has a clear motivation and develops in some way as the story progresses. Characters are cohesive and behave in ways appropriate to their individual personalities. Author displays insight into the desires and backgrounds of characters.	Story includes at least one dynamic character that develops in some way as the story progresses and is fairly unique. At times, characters may behave in ways that are generic or erratic in regards to their personality. Author shows some insight into characters' desires and motivations.	Story lacks a distinct, dynamic character. Main character may not change at all during the story. Characters generally behave in erratic or generic ways that indicate little insight on the author's part into their personalities and motivations.
CHARACTERIZATION (10 pts)	Includes at least 2 examples of direct characterization and 3 examples of indirect characterization. Indirect characterization gives strong insight into character's personality. Examples are highlighted and labeled.	Includes at least 2 examples of direct characterization and 2 examples of indirect characterization. Indirect characterization shows some insight, but may be unclear or lacking in detail.	Includes at least 2 examples of direct characterization and 1 example of indirect characterization. Examples may be unsuccessful or vague, and therefore offer little insight. Attempts at indirect char. may actually be direct.
POINT OF VIEW (5 pts)	Has a distinct, consistent point of view throughout the entire story; point of view seems appropriate to the plot, characters, and intentions of the story.	Has a distinct point of view, though it may waver at times in the story. Point of view is mostly appropriate for the intentions of the story.	Inconsistent or weak point of view. Point of view does not make sense for story or shows lack of effort on author's part.
TONE (5 pts)	Author develops a distinct tone for the narrator and sticks to it throughout the story; the voice of the speaker feels distinct and consistent.	Author develops a tone for the speaker, though at times the attitude may be unclear or indistinct.	There is no consistent or discernible tone for the speaker/narrator.
MOOD	Author develops a distinct and	Author develops a mood for the	The mood is unclear to the reader

(5 pts)	consistent mood for the story, and reflects this mood in the setting, dialogue, plot, and descriptions of the story so that it is clear to the reader.	story, though it may not be consistent throughout the whole piece. Evidence of this mood can be found in the setting and plot, though the writer may struggle to incorporate it into descriptions.	and not reflected in the setting, plot, descriptions, or dialogue; the mood is weak and inconsistent throughout the piece.
DESCRIPTIVE LANGUAGE (5 pts)	Author includes at least 2 similes/metaphors and 2 examples of imagery, as well as one other device of his/her choosing. All examples are unique and appropriate to the story. Examples are highlighted for reader to view. Overall writing style is cohesive and eloquent.	Author includes at least 2 similes/metaphors and 2 examples of imagery, as well as one other device of his/her choosing. Examples may be somewhat generic or weak. Examples are highlighted for reader to view. Writing style is mostly cohesive, but may be predictable or vague at times.	Author attempts to include at least 1 simile/metaphor and 1 example of imagery, but attempts are cliché or do not fit into the flow of the story. Writing style is inconsistent, vague, or generic.
FORMAT (5 pts)	500 pages, correct heading, 12 pt. Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, double spaced.	Incorrect heading, incorrect font (but still similar in size).	Does not meet page requirements OR is not double spaced OR has incorrect margins OR incorrect font size.
Requirements Checklist (10 pts)	Follows requirements on class website.	2+ unmet requirements.	4+ unmet requirements.

Total: 70 pts