

Mystery Story Rubric

Student Name _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Writing Process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing)	Student devotes a lot of time and effort to the writing process. Works hard to make the story wonderful.	Student devotes sufficient time and effort to the writing process. Works and gets the job done.	Student devotes some time and effort to the writing process but was not very thorough. Does enough to get by.	Student devotes little time and effort to the writing process. Doesn't seem to care.
Title	Title is creative, sparks interest and is related to the story and topic.	Title is related to the story and topic.	Title is present, but does not appear to be related to the story and topic.	No title.
Characters	The main characters are named and clearly described in text as well as pictures. 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.
Solution/Resolution	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.
Dialogue	There is an appropriate amount of dialogue to bring the characters to life.	There is dialogue in this story, and it is clear which character is speaking.	There is not quite enough dialogue in this story, but it is always clear which character is speaking.	It is not clear which character is speaking.
Spelling, Punctuation, and Sentence Structure	There are no spelling or punctuation errors in the final draft. Sentence writing demonstrates variety.	There is one spelling or punctuation error in the final draft. There are few sentence errors.	There are several spelling and punctuation errors in the final draft. Little sentence variety is evident.	The final draft has many spelling and punctuation errors. Run-ons and fragments may be used.
Neatness	The final draft of the story is readable, clean, neat and attractive. It is free of erasures and crossed-out words. It looks like the author took great pride in it.	The final draft of the story is readable, neat and attractive. It may have one or two erasures, but they are not distracting. It looks like the author took some pride in it.	The final draft of the story is readable and some of the pages are attractive. It looks like parts of it might have been done in a hurry.	The final draft is not neat or attractive. It looks like the student just wanted to get it done and didn't care what it looked like.