

(103) SHORT STORY WRITING, Early Entry (Due April 1)

RULES

1. Contestant writes and submits a fiction composition between 600 and 1,000 words in length. The story may be based on real experience; it may be purely imaginary; or it may be a fictionalized report of an historical happening.
2. Essay must be typed, double-spaced on plain white paper; one full inch margin on all sides. 50 space line = 10 words; 60 space line = 12 words.
3. The story **MUST** have an evangelistic, Biblical, Christian growth, moral, patriotic, or historical theme.
4. The story must be the original work of the student.
5. Plagiarism of any kind will automatically disqualify the entry.
6. One entry per contestant.

HINTS FROM THE SHORT STORY JUDGES

Judges look for stories that are original and imaginative yet still believable. It is important that your short story contains a balance of all the elements of narrative fiction: plot, setting, characterization, conflict, and resolution. It should not overemphasize one to the detriment of the others. Because of space limitations, it is important that you develop each facet of your story carefully and thoughtfully, paying particular attention to your choice of words. Use words economically, that is, do not use several trite, colorless words when one more imaginative word could take their place and enhance the tone of your story. Neither should you waste good words. Make each one count. Consider it carefully. Is it there for a reason? Is it used accurately? Does it tell the reader exactly what you want him to know or does he have to guess at your meaning? When you are satisfied that your story says what you want it to say, check it carefully to eliminate errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Also check the word count since judges will subtract points if you exceed the limits.

JUDGING CRITERIA

AREAS OF EVALUATION	POSSIBLE POINTS
I. The Story (80 points possible)	
A. Is there at least one life-like character?	10
B. Are details of setting (place, time) woven into the action of the story?	10
C. Theme - does the story have and demonstrate an evangelistic, inspirational, Biblical, Christian growth, patriotic persuasive or historical theme?	15
D. Is there a well-planned plot, with incidents that build conflict and lead to the climax?	15
E. Is there a main conflict?	15
F. Do all incidents build to a climax that resolves the conflict?	15
II. Mechanics (20 points possible)	
A. Neatness, general appearance	5
B. Spelling	5
C. Punctuation	5
D. Grammar, tenses are consistent, subject and verb agree, pronouns and antecedents agree	5
Total Points	100

NOTE: As many as 10 points may be subtracted if story does not come within 600 - 1000 words and is not typed double-spaced on plain white paper. (50 space line = 10 words; 60 space line = 12 words)