



Creative Writing

Instructions for the Judges

Instructions

At some convenient time before the contest begins, the director shall discuss with the judges the criteria for evaluating the stories, making sure that they all have the same conception of those criteria and understand the relative importance to be accorded each. Each judge shall be given a copy of the evaluation sheet provided by the League office. Judges should also see the captioned picture prompts contestants were given to use in creating their stories. The stories must contain at least one of the pictured items, but there is no requirement that all items on the prompt page be included.

Criteria

The stories are to be evaluated as to relative excellence in creativity and interest (60%), organization (30%) and correctness of style (10%). Please make comments constructive and supportive. While judges are to consider all three elements in selecting the most effective stories, more weight should be given to creativity and interest than to organization, and to organization more than to correctness of style.

- (A) Interest depends primarily upon substance. It depends next upon clarity and upon including specific details and examples which individualize the story as an outgrowth of the writer's character and experience.
- (B) A well-organized story will present ideas in a logical and coherent manner.
- (C) Grammatical correctness of style includes avoiding errors in sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, spelling and word usage.

Completing Evaluation Sheets

Comments on the Creative Writing Evaluation Sheet should first identify and focus on the positive aspects of the story and then offer constructive criticism. Comments need not be long, but should be specific rather than general.

Rating the compositions

Judges shall read all of the stories submitted and, without marking on the manuscripts, shall rank them in order of their excellence; 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. If more than one judge is used, they shall then discuss the stories which have been ranked first through sixth place, any judge being permitted to alter his/her ranking as a result of the discussion. Judges are to reach a consensus in the papers ranked first through sixth.