

TITLE:	JUDGE ID #:						
CHARACTERIZATION							
Is either the hero or heroine clearly identifiable from any secondary character?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
Is at least one main character compelling and intriguing enough to inspire the reader's curiosity? Does the character feel real and three-dimensional?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
Are the secondary characters well rounded? Do they support rather than overpower the main characters?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
COMMENT:							
Does the meeting of the hero and heroine, and the relationship between them, seem feasible and not manipulated by the author?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
Are the characters' behaviors, thoughts, actions, and reactions plausible, realistic, and logical for their situations and the type of people they're portraying?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
COMMENT:							
Does at least one main character have internal and/or external <u>GOALS</u> strong enough to carry the story?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
Does the potential exist for character growth and development?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
COMMENT:							
Is at least one character's <u>MOTIVATIONS</u> to achieve their goals clear and believable?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
Do the characters' motivated actions and behaviors induce sympathy and support from the reader?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
COMMENT:							
Does at least one main character show deep internal and external <u>POINTS OF VIEW</u> that gives the reader insight into the character's goals, motivations, and conflicts?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
Do the characters' points of view give them memorable personalities with distinct virtues and flaws?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
COMMENT:							
CHARACTERIZATION SECTION: Count the number of yeses to calculate the points							
10 - ABOVE AVERAGE = 9 to 11 yeses							
8 - AVERAGE = 6 to 8 yeses							
6 - BELOW AVERAGE = 5 or less yeses							
CHARACTERIZATION POINTS (The total points should be 10, 8, or 6; not the total yeses)							

DIALOGUE:							
Is the dialogue appropriate for the setting, time period, and scenario?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
Does each character's speech ring true to their gender, age, position, and background?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
Do the conversations seem natural, not stilted or forced?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
Do the dialogue exchanges increase tensions for the characters and/or the plot? Do they reveal slivers of the storyline that advance the plot and keep the reader's interest?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	No	Somewhat
Is the dialogue engaging and free of unnecessary banter or backstory?							

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

Do the dialogues reflect what emotions the characters are feeling; anger, joy, sadness, regret, etc.?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Are the lines of dialogue easily attributable to the character who is speaking?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Are dialogue tags used effectively to convey actions and thoughts? Do the tags intensify the story?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

Is the dialogue enhanced by the words, phrases, and arrangements of sentences?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Do the word choices and phrasing help differentiate the characters and their dialogue from one another?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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If accents and dialects are present, are they used only to get the tone across without being obtrusive?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

DIALOGUE SECTION: Count the number of yeses to calculate the points

<input type="checkbox"/>	10 - ABOVE AVERAGE = 9 to 11 yeses
<input type="checkbox"/>	8 - AVERAGE = 6 to 8 yeses
<input type="checkbox"/>	6 - BELOW AVERAGE = 5 or less yeses
<input type="checkbox"/>	DIALOGUE POINTS (The total points should be 10, 8, or 6; not the total yeses)

PLOT AND CONFLICT:

Does the story start in the right place with an opening incident that creates a desire to read more?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Is there a clear sense of time, place, and theme to the story? Is the reader grounded in the scenes?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Is foreshadowing used to hint at the possibility of future conflicts and complications?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

Are settings, descriptions, and senses (see, smell, hear, taste, touch and more) used appropriately (too little/too much) and at the right moment in scenes? Do they add depth to the plot?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Does the world building effectively create visions of the story's who, what, where, when, and how in the reader's mind?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

Are the situations and circumstances appropriate to the genre? Is the storyline believable?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Is the storyline fresh or unique in some way? Do the plot twists enhance the story and keep the reader excited?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Does the plot provide situations for a romance or at least a committed relationship to develop?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

Is there evidence of internal and external **CONFLICTS** within the plot? (One or both main characters struggle with a problem, deal with a force beyond their control, want something that seems unattainable, etc.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Are the conflicts between the hero and heroine strong enough that they cannot be rectified with a little conversation or solved by a simple act?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Do the conflicts develop naturally without feeling forced or contrived and do they create emotions in the characters

and readers?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Are there hints of internal or external obstacles that hinder the character(s) from achieving their goals, or any sacrifices the character(s) must make in order to reach their goals?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

PLOT AND CONFLICT SECTION: Count the number of yeses to calculate the points

10 - ABOVE AVERAGE = 10 to 12 yeses

8 - AVERAGE = 6 to 9 yeses

6 - BELOW AVERAGE = 5 or less yeses

PLOT AND CONFLICT POINTS (The total points should be 10, 8, or 6; not the total yeses)

PACING, STYLE, AND STORY ELEMENT:

Is the pacing appropriate to the story and genre? Is there a balance of dialogue, action, and narrative that keeps the story moving forward?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Does every scene help move the story forward? Are they free of unnecessary diversions and distractions that slow the pacing? Are there hooks at the end of scenes and chapters that leave the reader wanting more?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Is the right amount of background and information layered into the story at the correct moment to help achieve the appropriate pace?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Is syntax structure (sentence order, pattern, arrangement, expression, and inflection) used to create rhythms that help control the speed at which the story is told?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Are sentence lengths varied for optimal effect of tone and mood of the story?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

Are sentences concise, free of unnecessary, redundant, and crutch words? Are incomplete or run-on sentences, or clichés and over-used phrases kept to a minimum?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Is there a clear and logical chronology in the events of the scenes? Do the events maintain the continuity of the plot so the readers can easily follow the story from scene to scene?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Is the writing active, not passive? Are vivid active verbs used to enhance the pace?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Does the writing generally "show" instead of "tell" the action?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

Do the transitions between the characters' points of view and between scenes flow seamlessly?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Do the characters stay in their POV and internalization and not jump into another's head?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Has the author refrained from injecting her or his thoughts, viewpoints, and knowledge (Author Intrusion) into the story, so the characters don't make statements or convey thoughts they could not know or understand yet?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

PACING, STYLE and STORY ELEMENT SECTION: Count the number of yeses to calculate the points

10 - ABOVE AVERAGE = 10 to 12 yeses

8 - AVERAGE = 6 to 9 yeses

6 - BELOW AVERAGE = 5 or less yeses

PACING, STYLE, AND ELEMENT POINTS (The total points should be 10, 8, or 6; not the total yeses)

MECHANICS: DO NOT take points off for missing or misplaced commas

Does the manuscript conform to the standards of written English?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Were spelling and punctuation errors kept to a minimum so they didn't affect the overall readability?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Are serious violations in sentence structure, such as inconsistency of tenses, reference pronouns, misplaced modifiers, etc. kept to a minimum?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS:

MECHANICS: Count the number of yeses to calculate the points

5 – STANDARD = 2 to 3 yeses

4 – BELOW STANDARD = 1 to 0 yeses

MECHANICS POINTS (The total points should be 5 or 4; not the total yeses)

PRESENTATION SECTION: DO NOT take points off for formatting errors due to document transfer

Is the manuscript prepared in the generally accepted industry format? (margins, line spacing, fonts, etc.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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Overall, is the format clean and attractive?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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COMMENTS: The presentation is fine.

PRESENTATION: Count the number of yeses to calculate the points

5 - STANDARD = 1 to 2 yeses

4 – BELOW STANDARD = 0 yeses

PRESENTATION POINTS (The total points should be 5 or 4; not the total yeses)

TOTAL SCORE (The total should add up to an even number between 32 to 50)

Thank you for entering the TARA Contest. We hope to hear from you next year!

JUDGES, PLEASE ADD ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT THIS ENTRY: