

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>ENTRY ID #:</b>	<b>JUDGE ID #:</b>
---------------	--------------------	--------------------

**CHARACTERIZATION (Please mark only one answer per question)**

Is either the heroine or hero likable?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Does the heroine or hero inspire curiosity and draw the reader into her or his life?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Does the heroine or hero feel real and three-dimensional?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Do the characters' relationships, actions, and reactions seem realistic and logical and not forced by the author?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Is the heroine or hero clearly identifiable from any secondary character?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Do the secondary characters support rather than overpower the main characters?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

**COMMENTS on the answers above:**

Does at least one main character show hints of **INTERNAL** and/or **EXTERNAL GOALS**?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Are there obstacles and/or sacrifices that hinder the character(s) from achieving their goals?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Does at least one main character show clear and believable **MOTIVATIONS** to reach her or his goals?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Do the characters' motivations and behaviors induce sympathy and support from the reader?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Does at least one main character show deep **INTERNAL** and/or **EXTERNAL POINTS OF VIEW** that give insights into their goals and motivations?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Do the characters' points of view show their distinct personalities, virtues and/or flaws?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Does the potential exist for character growth and development?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

**COMMENTS on the answers above:**

**CHARACTERIZATION SCORE: Count the number of yeses to calculate the points**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>10 - ABOVE AVERAGE = 9 to 13 yeses</b> (The author does a fantastic job creating 3-D characters who have strong Goals, Motivations, and Points of View)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>8 - AVERAGE = 6 to 8 yeses</b> (The characters are interesting, but could use deeper development)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>6 - BELOW AVERAGE = 5 or less yeses</b> (Characters are ordinary with no clear goals and motivations)

**DIALOGUE (Please mark only one answer per question)**

Is the dialogue appropriate for the setting and time period?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

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
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Does each character's speech ring true to their gender, age, position, and background?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Do the conversations seem natural and not stilted or forced?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Are expressions and inflections in the dialogue used to reveal the characters' diversities?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Are the characters' speech patterns and vocabulary (tone, accent, dialect,) portrayed without being obtrusive?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Are exchanges between characters vivid, quick-paced, and important to the story?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

**COMMENTS on the answers above:**

Do the dialogues and tags show the **EMOTIONS** the characters are feeling; anger, joy, sadness, regret, etc.?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Do the dialogue exchanges and tags increase **TENSIONS** for the characters and/or the plot?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Are dialogues and tags used effectively to promote the characters' goals, motivations, and conflicts?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

**COMMENTS on the answers above:**

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>10 - ABOVE AVERAGE = 9 to 11 yeses</b> (The author shows an overall skill with dialogue that makes the readers feel they're participating in the conversations)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>8 - AVERAGE = 6 to 8 yeses</b> (The dialogue is interesting, but is used in some places where narrative or description would be more effective)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>6 - BELOW AVERAGE = 5 or less yeses</b> (Further study in the use of dialogue to propel the story is recommended)

**PLOT AND CONFLICT: (Please mark only one answer per question)**

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
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Is there a clear sense of time, place, and theme that grounds the reader in the story?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Are settings, descriptions, and senses (see, smell, hear, taste, touch and more) used to add depth to the plot?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Is world building (when, where, who, what, how) used to develop clear visions of the storyline?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Do the plot situations and circumstances create a believable storyline appropriate for the genre?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Is the storyline fresh or unique, or are there plot twists that set the story apart from others?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Does the plot maintain continuity so the readers can easily follow the story from scene to scene?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

**COMMENTS on the answers above:**

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Are the conflicts strong enough that they cannot be rectified by a little conversation or solved by a simple act of the character(s)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
Do the conflicts develop naturally without feeling forced or contrived?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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
Are there enough stakes and/or tension throughout the plot to make it a page turner?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
Can the conflict sustain the whole book?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat

**COMMENTS on the answers above:**

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>10 - ABOVE AVERAGE = 10 to 13 yeses</b> (The author starts the story at a good point and continues with an intriguing plot and strong conflict)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>8 - AVERAGE = 6 to 9 yeses</b> (The plot is somewhat conventional and the conflicts need to be strengthened)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>6 - BELOW AVERAGE = 5 or less yeses</b> (The plot doesn't completely engage the reader and the conflicts can easily be solved if the character(s) took a different path)

**PACING, STYLE, AND STORY ELEMENT: (Please mark only one answer per question)**

Is the pacing appropriate to the story and genre?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
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
Is the story free of unnecessary backstory, narratives, and/or distractions that slow the pace?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
Does the syntax structure (sentence order, pattern, arrangement, expression, and inflection) 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
Are varying sentence lengths used to slow and quicken the tempo the story?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
Do the scenes add to the importance of the story and flow in a logical chronology that keeps the pace moving?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
Are there hooks throughout the story that quicken the pace and leave the reader wanting more?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat

**COMMENTS on the answers above:**

Are sentences concise without using redundant or unnecessary words?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
Are incomplete or run-on sentences or clichés and clutch words kept to a minimum?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
Does the writing generally "show" the action using vivid, active verbs instead of "tell" in a passive manner?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
Does the switch from one character's point of view to another's flow smoothly without head hopping?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
Has author intrusion (author injecting their thoughts, viewpoints, and knowledge into the story) been kept to a minimum?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat

**COMMENTS on the answers above:****PACING, STYLE and STORY ELEMENT SECTION: Count the number of yeses to calculate the points**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>10 - ABOVE AVERAGE = 10 to 12 yeses</b> (The author has a good grasp of pacing and style so the compulsion to turn the page stays with reader from start to finish)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>8 - AVERAGE = 6 to 9 yeses</b> (The pacing needs more balance between dialogue, action, and narrative to keep the pace moving at the perfect speed)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>6 - BELOW AVERAGE = 5 or less yeses</b> (The story is told more like a narrative by the author rather than shown by the characters' actions)

**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
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

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
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

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
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

**COMMENTS on the answers above:****MECHANICS: Count the number of yeses to calculate the points**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>5 – STANDARD = 2 to 3 yeses</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>4 – BELOW STANDARD = 1 to 0 yeses</b>

**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
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

Overall, is the format clean and easy to read?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat
--------------------------	-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------	----------

**COMMENTS on the answers above:****PRESENTATION: Count the number of yeses to calculate the points**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>5 - STANDARD = 1 to 2 yeses</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>4 – BELOW STANDARD = 0 yeses</b>

**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 again next year!

**JUDGES, PLEASE ADD ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT THIS ENTRY:**