WRITING CONTEST SCORE SHEET

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Judges are **ENCOURAGED** to comment within the manuscript of entries as well as on the score sheet.

* To comment within the manuscript, please use a different colour font, highlight or “track changes” within the word processing program.

**DIRECTIONS:** There are a possible 150 points score.

Each question is scored on a 1 – 5 scale.

Half points **ARE** permitted.

Please remember a published author means the author is published. The entry is **not** published.

Add more lines if needed in the “comments” section.

Scores are within the following ranges:

1 – poor, needs major work

2 – shows promise, needs improvement

3 – average, more revisions are required

4 – good, close to being publishable, still needs some minor work

5 – excellent, publishable

**#1 OPENING / HOOK –**

Does the opening grab your attention and pull you into the story? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the opening original and well-executed? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Possibility of 10 points

Comments:

**#2** **Setting –**

Does the setting give a sense of time and place and set the mood of the story? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the setting established in the plot and enhance the story? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Possibility of 10 points

Comments:

**#3 Main Characters –**

Are the characters vivid, unique and multi dimensional? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are the characters appropriate to the plot? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are the character’s actions/reactions believable and consistent? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the GMC of the characters revealed or at least hinted at? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Possibility of 20 points

Comments:

**#4 Secondary Characters**

Are the secondary characters important to the story; with distinct personalities?

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Possibility of 5 points

Comments:

**#5** **Plot/Pacing –**

Is the right amount of information revealed; not too much or too little? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Has a major conflict been introduced and enough to drive the characters? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the plot/conflict have the potential to sustain an entire book? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the action catch the reader’s interest? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is back-story or introspection necessary or does/would it harm the pacing? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Possibility of 25 points

Comments:

**#6** **Dialogue & Narrative** –

Is there a good balance between the dialogue and the narrative? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the dialogue & narrative progress the story and help build the plot? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the dialogue sound normal and conversational, not stiff or unnatural? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the use of tags and body movement used in the most effective way? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Possibility of 20 points

Comments:

**#7** **Style and Voice –**

Is the writing unique? Does it have a certain spark that keeps you reading? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the writer have a rhythm and way of using words which is appropriate

to their story and enjoyable to read? Or a handicap to this piece? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the sentence structure and length varied? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the POV always clear? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Does the author make good use of all five senses? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5 = voice perfect for this piece

1 = voice handicaps this piece

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Possibility of 25 points

Comments:

**#8** **The Whole Concept –**

As a whole (25 pages), how much do you want to read more? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Do you foresee problems that could seriously handicap chances of publication?

5 = I am desperate, can’t wait to see it in print **OR**

1 = The manuscript needs a lot more work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Possibility of 10 points

Comments:

**#9 Technical –**

Has the author followed the contest rules? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the manuscript properly presented? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is the entry free of major typos, grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Possibility of 15 points

Comments:

**#10 Accuracy –**

Are there errors of facts? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Are there inconsistencies within the writer’s world? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Possibility of 10 points

Comments:

**TOTAL POINTS:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_