



## BONUS 2 —Writing Contest Score Sheet

This is an actual score sheet that I have been given by a real writer's contest to evaluate the 25 pages the the author's submitted. Judges are encouraged to comment on their scoring.

### SCORING

Scores are within the following ranges (half marks are allowed)

- 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

### OPENING / HOOK (10 points max)

- 1. Does the opening grab your attention and pull you into the story?
- 2. Is the opening original and well-executed?

### SETTING (10 points max)

- 1. Does the setting give a sense of time and place and set the mood of the story?
- 2. Is the setting established in the plot and enhance the story?

### MAIN CHARACTERS (20 points max)

- 1. Are the characters vivid, unique and multi dimensional?
- 2. Are the characters appropriate to the plot?
- 3. Are the character's actions/reactions believable and consistent?
- 4. Is the GMC (goal, motivation and conflict) of the characters revealed or at least hinted at?



## SECONDARY CHARACTERS (5 points max)

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

## PLOT and PACING (25 points max)

1. Is the right amount of information revealed; not too much or too little?
2. Has a major conflict been introduced and enough to drive the characters?
3. Does the plot/conflict have the potential to sustain an entire book?
4. Does the action catch the reader's interest?
5. Is back-story or introspection necessary or does/would it harm the pacing?

## DIALOGUE and NARRATIVE (20 points max)

1. Is there a good balance between the dialogue and the narrative?
2. Does the dialogue & narrative progress the story and help build the plot?
3. Does the dialogue sound normal and conversational, not stiff or unnatural?
4. Is the use of tags and body movement used in the most effective way?

## STYLE and VOICE (25 points max)

1 = voice handicaps this piece ~~~ 5 = voice perfect for this piece

1. Is the writing unique? Does it have a certain spark that keeps you reading?
2. 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?
3. Is the sentence structure and length varied?
4. Is the POV (point of view) always clear?
5. Does the author make good use of all five senses?



### THE WHOLE CONCEPT (10 points max)

1 = The manuscript needs a lot more work ~~~ 5 = I can't wait to see it in print

1. As a whole (25 pages), how much do you want to read more?
2. Do you foresee problems that could seriously handicap chances of publication?

### TECHNICAL (15 points max)

1. Has the author followed the contest rules?
2. Is the manuscript properly presented?
3. Is the entry free of major typos, grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors?

### ACCURACY and VOICE (10 points max)

1. Are there errors of facts?
2. Are there inconsistencies within the writer's world?