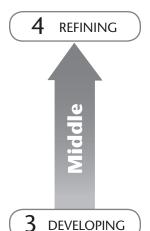
## **Teacher-Friendly Scoring Guide for Narrative Writing**

**Purpose:** To tell a story



- The writer starts with a lead that sets up the story and draws the reader in.
- The writer includes fresh, believable characters that grow and learn.
- The writer offers a rich setting that is easy to visualize.
- The writer includes events that are logically sequenced and move the story forward. Time and place work in harmony.
- The writer tells a completely new story or puts an original twist on a familiar story. The plot is well developed. There is a compelling conflict or problem that is eventually solved.
- The writer uses literary techniques, such as foreshadowing, symbolism, and figurative language, well.
- The writer leaves the reader feeling intrigued, surprised, or entertained.
- The writer solves the compelling conflict or problem thoughtfully and credibly.



- The writer starts with a lead that sets the scene but is predictable or unoriginal.
- The writer includes characters that are a bit too familiar. His or her thinking or understanding hardly changes as the story progresses.
- The writer offers a predictable setting that is somewhat easy to visualize.
- The writer devotes the same level of importance to events. Significant events mingle with trivial ones and sometimes stray from the story line.
- The writer tells a nearly complete story that may not contain new or original thinking. The writer presents minor conflicts and problems that distract from major ones.
- The writer uses literary techniques but not all that effectively.
- The writer engages the reader at some points but not at others.
- The writer ends with a sense of resolution, but the reader may feel unsatisfied and/or perplexed.



- The writer starts with a perfunctory lead: "I'm going to tell you about the time. . . ."
- The writer includes characters that don't feel real. They feel more like stereotypes or cardboard cutouts.
- The writer offers a setting that is almost impossible to visualize.
- The writer includes simple, unrelated events that don't add up to anything much.
- The writer jumps around illogically. There is no clear conflict or problem to be solved.
- The writer does not use literary techniques or uses them imprecisely or with no clear purpose.
- The writer leaves the reader frustrated or disappointed. He or she did not think through the story before committing it to paper.
- The writer finishes with no clear ending or, at most, a halfhearted ending, leaving the reader wondering why he or she bothered.

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