

Criteria for Fiction:

Name: _____

- The title invites and fits.
- There is a well-developed setting: time and places.
- There is a theme or themes that resonate and explore something important.
- The lead brings readers right into the actions of the story.
- Background information that a reader needs is woven in.
- The characters are believable in their thinking and actions.
- The writer takes the reader inside of the narrator's thinking and emotions
- The small details reveal important characteristics of the characters.
- The protagonist grows and changes through the plot.
- The pace is slowed down: readers can make a movie in their minds.
- A reader can see, hear, and feel the experience because the writer provides concrete, sensory details and descriptions of people in action (shows not tells)
- There is the right amount and effective use of dialogue; the writer uses it to show what people are like and how they're feeling.
- The language is interesting: (verbs, adjectives, adverbs, and the way they are used).
- Specific nouns enhance the writing.
- The action flashes back and forward in time and creates questions in the reader's mind about what will happen next.
- Conventions are used correctly, including punctuation, capitalization, and paragraphing.
- Grammar is correct.
- The ending is purposeful: it leaves a reader thinking.