



Gulf Coast Writers Association – Children’s Stories Judging Criteria							
Control No.				Title of Entry			
Step One - Weed out entries							
At the Judges’ discretion does the entry meet the general guidelines including: word count, complete story, no gratuitous violence or erotica, submission rules followed: times new roman, font 12, double spaced, pages numbered, title on each page. Is age group listed?							
0	Not Present	1	Poor	2	Good	3	Excellent
Step Two							
Characterization							
Will the reader care about the characters? Will you remember the character(s)? Do the main characters respond to and influence events? Are they changed by the action in the story?							
0	Not Present	1	Poor	2	Good	3	Excellent
Story							
Does the story have magic, charm, impact (appeal for its intended readership)? Does the narrative flow or tend toward disjointed? Are there qualities of originality and imagination? When historical or informational, are details factually accurate? Stories for early childhood—how does the story sound when you read it out loud?							
0	Not Present	1	Poor	2	Good	3	Excellent
Theme							
Is there a strong unifying story, theme, or concept which holds the work together? Is there a lesson for the reader? How well is the message integrated into the story?							
0	Not Present	1	Poor	2	Good	3	Excellent
Writing Style							
Is the writing style age appropriate? Does the story respect children’s understandings, abilities, and appreciations? Does the quality of the author’s prose (syntax, word choice, etc.) enhance the story? Do specific, definite, concrete, and particular details appeal to your senses and hold your attention? Does the rhythm of the prose enhance the meaning? Are there errors in spelling, grammar, paragraphing, and punctuation? Are words used incorrectly? Does the author show not tell? Is the writing active rather than passive voice?							
0	Not Present	1	Poor	2	Good	3	Excellent
Impact							
Does the story engage your emotions? Do you come to care about the characters and about the outcome of the story? Does the story use humor or tragedy to engage the reader?							
0	Not Present	1	Poor	2	Good	3	Excellent
Subtotals							
Total Score							