**BINUS Serpong High School Essay & Short Story Writing Contest**

**Judges’ Spreadsheet - Middle School Short Story**

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| **Participant Number** | **Story Title** | **Score (out of 20)** | **Comments** |
| G7\_001 | The Carousel Never Stops Turning | 15 | This poignant and emotionally charged short story effectively captures the protagonist's experience of profound loss and grief. The writing vividly portrays the raw emotions and the feeling of time standing still amidst the turmoil. The author skillfully conveys the inner turmoil and conflicting thoughts of the protagonist, showcasing the complex nature of coping with a loved one's passing. The use of imagery and metaphors adds depth to the narrative, particularly in describing the protagonist's anger and the explosion of emotions. |
| G7\_002 | The Boy Who unlocked a New Door | 14 | This is a heartwarming and uplifting short story that explores themes of grief, resilience, and personal growth. The narrative effectively portrays the protagonist's journey from a state of apathy and sorrow to finding motivation and purpose in his life. The story begins with a powerful emotional impact, with the discovery of the video from Kyle's late father. The depiction of his pain and the subsequent realization that he needs to embrace life despite the loss is well-executed. |
| G7\_003 | When a Star fades, a new star will shine | 14 | This is an inspiring and uplifting story that explores the theme of resilience and finding purpose in the face of adversity. The narrative effectively portrays the protagonist's journey from a state of grief and despair to rediscovering her passion and using it to make a positive impact on the world. |
| G7\_004 | Planet Darion | 14 | The plot development is engaging and builds tension with Silver falling ill and facing financial challenges for treatment. The characters of Silver and Sovann are well-defined and their contrasting personalities drive the story forward. The language use is generally clear and straightforward, effectively conveying the events of the story. |
| G7\_005 | COVID-19 HOW IT CHANGED 7.8 BILLION  PEOPLE’S LIVES | 11 | The story lacks a clear and coherent plot structure. It jumps between different moments without a smooth transition, making it feel disjointed. The language use is generally clear, but there are instances of repetitive phrasing and awkward sentence constructions. |
| G7\_006 | The Importance of a Friend | 14 | The story could benefit from more vivid descriptions of the school environment, lunchtime atmosphere, and the characters' actions. The story progresses quickly, with time passing in short intervals. Consider slowing down the pacing in some parts to allow for more reflection, introspection, or dialogue exchanges that delve deeper into the characters' thoughts and feelings. |
| G7\_007 | Unexpected Friendship | 14 | While the concept of an unexpected friendship is explored, it lacks depth and development. The story could benefit from more exploration of their evolving relationship and how it impacts their perspectives on the pandemic's effects on social life.The language use is generally clear and understandable, with a few minor errors and awkward phrasings. Some sentences could be restructured for better flow and coherence. |
| G8\_001 | The Cure | 16 | The emotional motivation is well established, and the protagonist's journey to find a cure is engaging.The language use is generally clear and effectively conveys the protagonist's emotions and determination. There are a few minor errors and awkward phrasings that could be addressed for smoother readability. |
| G8\_002 | Not So Bad | 15 | The story effectively portrays the protagonist's growth and a sense of optimism for the future. The language use is generally clear and conveys the protagonist's emotions and thoughts. Some sentences could be rephrased for better flow and clarity. Consider using more varied sentence structures and incorporating vivid descriptions to enhance the storytelling. |
| G8\_003 | This Too Shall Pass | 17 | The story emphasizes the power of creativity, community, and the importance of maintaining a positive mindset during difficult times. The ending reflects on Trevor's legacy and the message of hope and belief.The language use effectively conveys the emotions and atmosphere of the story. The descriptions, dialogue, and narrative flow well, engaging the reader throughout. Consider varying sentence structures for added fluency and incorporating more vivid sensory details. Overall, well done! |
| G8\_004 | One Step at a Time | 19 | It explores her grief, feelings of guilt, and the struggle to find meaning in life after such a devastating event.The language effectively conveys the emotions of grief, loss, and reflection. The imagery and metaphors create a vivid atmosphere, capturing the reader's attention. Consider exploring the protagonist's thoughts and actions in more detail to deepen the emotional impact. Overall, well done! |
| G8\_005 | The Rise and Fall of a Project: A Story of Passion, Creativity, and Overcoming Adversity | 14 | Word length exceeded by miles! The setting and atmosphere are described effectively, and there is a sense of urgency and importance in the work of the characters.  However, the story could benefit from further development and refinement. The transitions between scenes and events are sometimes abrupt, and some parts of the story feel rushed or underdeveloped. |
| G8\_006 | A Bit of Good in Melancholia |  | The story effectively explores themes of mortality, regret, and the power of selflessness.  In terms of language use, the story showcases strong descriptive elements, evoking the protagonist's emotions and surroundings. The dialogue between the protagonist and the doctor is particularly impactful. The use of imagery, such as the spilled wine resembling blood, adds a vivid and symbolic layer to the narrative. |
| G8\_007 | Time Wave | 14 | The story captures the confusion and disorientation experienced by the protagonist, Joshua, as he navigates a world that has seemingly changed overnight. The use of specific details, such as the empty streets and the online meeting, helps to establish the atmosphere and build suspense.  In terms of language use, the story is generally clear and concise, effectively conveying the events and emotions. However, there are some areas where sentence structure could be improved for smoother flow. |
| G8\_008 | To the ones who found Happiness | 16 | The story effectively conveys Derek's isolation and longing for human connection, as well as his eventual encounters with acts of kindness that bring him joy.  The language used is evocative and expressive, effectively capturing Derek's emotions and the atmosphere of the deserted streets. The story incorporates sensory details, such as the smell of fresh rain and the laughter ringing through the air, which enhances the reader's immersion in the setting. The pacing is well-managed, allowing for moments of reflection and anticipation while also progressing the narrative. |
| G8\_009 | WE/1 | 15 | The story touches upon themes of responsibility, guilt, and redemption. Jake's guilt over what he has done to his daughter and his determination to find a cure showcase his growth and realization that family is more important than material gain. |
| G8\_010 | Whisper of the Moon | 16 | The story effectively conveys the message of cherishing family and the importance of embracing the present.The language used in the story is generally clear and concise, effectively conveying the emotions and events. However, there are a few areas where sentence structure or word choice could be improved to enhance the flow and readability of the narrative. |
| G9\_001 | -- | 15 | The story could benefit from further development of the protagonist's internal struggles and their growth throughout the narrative.The language use is generally clear, but there are instances where sentence structure and word choice could be refined for smoother readability. Some sentences feel fragmented, and the use of certain phrases could be improved for better flow. |
| G9\_002 | Celebration | 15 | The story effectively conveys Cory's feelings of loneliness and anticipation, leading up to a surprise birthday celebration with his friends. The language used in the story is generally clear and descriptive. The descriptions of Cory's emotions and the atmosphere are effectively conveyed, creating a vivid picture in the reader's mind. However, there are some instances where sentence structure could be refined for smoother flow. Additionally, the story could benefit from more varied and nuanced language choices to enhance the storytelling. |
| G9\_003 | A Light in the Darkness | 14 | The story effectively portrays the sense of longing and disappointment that the protagonist feels during the pandemic, as well as their desire for a change and some excitement in their life.The language used in the story effectively conveys the protagonist's emotions and sets the tone of longing and anticipation. The description of the colors in the sky, the family dinner, and the activities with the sister create vivid imagery. However, there are a few instances where sentence structure could be refined for smoother flow, and some dialogue tags could be clearer. |
| G9\_004 | Don’t cry that it’s over, smile that it happened. | 16 | The story conveys the message of finding gratitude and cherishing the good memories in the face of loss and adversity.The language used effectively conveys Anya's emotions and the progression of the story. The use of dialogue and descriptive details adds depth to the narrative. However, there are a few instances where sentence structure could be refined for smoother flow, and some transitions between paragraphs could be made clearer. |
| G9\_005 | Apricity | 15 | Word length exceeded. The story emphasizes the importance of acceptance, support, and friendship in overcoming difficult times. Overall, the content is engaging and thought-provoking.The language used in the story is descriptive and evocative, allowing the reader to visualize the scenes and empathize with the protagonist's emotions. There is a good use of sensory details, such as the cold winter, the dimly lit room, and the eerie moments. |
| G9\_006 | Coins and Chaos | 13 | While the overall concept is intriguing, the story lacks clarity and depth in its execution. The transitions between ideas are abrupt, and some elements feel disconnected. The pandemic and its impact could be further developed to create a stronger connection with the themes presented.The language used in the story is descriptive in certain parts, such as the sound of the keyboard clacking and the emotions felt by the protagonist during the heist. However, there are inconsistencies in sentence structure and pacing. |
| G9\_007 | End of Time | 15 | The story effectively captures the struggle against a deadly virus, the urgency to find a solution, and the eventual triumph and revival of both the protagonist and the world. With some minor refinements in sentence structure and clarity, the story has the potential to create a stronger impact. |
| G9\_008 | Her Eyes that Glimmer | 18 | The language used in the story is descriptive and emotive, creating a sense of atmosphere and evoking the reader's emotions. The descriptions of the hospital environment, Bella's fatigue, and Maya's appearance effectively convey the setting and the characters' feelings. The story effectively captures the emotional journey of a nurse working during a pandemic and the impact of a chance encounter with a young patient. With some minor improvements in sentence structure and grammar, the story has the potential to create an even stronger emotional impact. |

**BINUS SCHOOL, Serpong - Interschool Story Writing Competition – Rubric**

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| Key Traits | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| IDEAS | **• The opening lines do**  **not present the story's main conflict or characters.**  **• Details and examples are irrelevant or are missing.**  **• The writer does not use dialogue.** | **• The opening lines**  **vaguely present the story's main conflict or characters.**  **• More details and examples are needed.**  **• The writer occasionally uses dialogue.** | **• The opening lines**  **present the story's main conflict and characters.**  **• Most details are relevant in revealing the setting and characters.**  **• The writer often uses dialogue to show the characters' personalities.** | **• The opening lines vividly**  **present the story's main conflict and characters.**  **• Significant, descriptive details reveal the setting and characters.**  **• The writer uses strong dialogue to show the characters' personalities.** |
| ORGANISATION | **• The writer does not set**  **up what the story is about.**  **• The story begins and ends in a confusing way.** | **• The writer hints at the**  **characters, setting, or action.**  **• The ending does not bring the conflict to a satisfying conclusion.**  **• The sequence of events is sometimes confusing.**  **• The story has a beginning, middle, and end, but the action is hard to follow.** | **• The writer vaguely**  **presents the characters, setting, or action.**  **• The ending resolves the conflict.**  **• The sequence of events is mostly clear.**  **• The story has a beginning, middle, and end, but the action is not always easy to follow.** | **• The writer sets the scene**  **by introducing the characters, setting, or**  **action in a memorable way.**  **• The ending resolves the conflict satisfactorily.**  **• The sequence of events is clear and engaging.**  **• The story has a clear beginning, middle, and ending.** |
| VOICE | **• The voice lacks individuality.**  **• The point of view is inconsistent and confusing.** | **• The tone and voice are not clearly individual and not always appropriate.**  **• The point of view is occasionally inconsistent.** | **• The tone and voice are individual and acceptable.**  **• The point of view is consistent.** | **• The tone and voice are strongly individual and**  **appropriate for the story.**  **• The point of view is highly consistent.** |
| WORD CHOICE  &  SENTENCE FLUENCY | **• Lack of sensory**  **language limits the picture of the setting, characters, and conflict.**  **• Repetitive sentence structures and lack of**  **dialogue make the writing difficult to follow.** | **• A little more sensory**  **language is needed.**  **• Some sentences have a variety of**  **structures.**  **• Use of fragments and run-on sentences in dialogue is not always thoughtful.** | **• Sensory language is**  **adequate to describe the setting, characters, and conflict.**  **• Sentences mostly have a variety of structures.**  **• Use of fragments and run-on sentences in dialogue is thoughtful.** | **• Thoughtful use of sensory**  **language helps create memorable pictures of the setting, characters, and conflict.**  **• Sentences have a pleasing variety of structures.**  **• Use of fragments and run- on sentences in dialogue is deliberate and thoughtful.** |
| CONVENTIONS | **• Common words are**  **misspelled and almost all punctuation is missing or incorrect.**  **• Grammar and usage mistakes are frequent and distort meaning.**  **• Paragraphing is missing.** | **• Spelling, capitalisation, and punctuation are sometimes incorrect.**  **• Grammar and usage errors distract from meaning.**  **• Paragraphing is irregular or too frequent.** | **• Spelling, capitalisation,**  **and punctuation are sometimes incorrect.**  **• Grammar and usage do not distort meaning but are not always correct.**  **• Paragraphing is attempted but is not always sound.** | **• Spelling, capitalisation,**  **and punctuation are correct.**  **• Grammar and usage are correct.**  **• Paragraphing tends to be correct.** |