

Entry TITLE:

Entry NUMBER:

JUDGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: _____

OPENING HOOK

- ___ Does the story start at an important moment?
- ___ Does the opening scene create an interesting picture?
- ___ Does the opening scene introduce you to an intriguing character?
- ___ Does the opening start with an unusual situation?

TRIGGERING INCIDENT

- ___ Is there a 'Call to Adventure'? Is there a hint of mystery that encourages you to keep reading?
- ___ Does the opening action raise a question in the reader's mind?
- ___ Does the opening insinuate a problem or conflict to come?

COMPELLING VOICE

- ___ Is the narrator one that you can instantly identify with or relates things in a fresh way?
- ___ Do you have a strong sense of the character's desires and what is blocking them?
- ___ Do you have a sense of mood and tone? Is there a hint of theme?
- ___ Can you sense the genre?

SHOW VS TELL

- ___ Does the opening use all six senses e.g., see, hear, feel, taste, smell and sense?
- ___ Does the story provide too much description or just the right amount?
- ___ Does the opening use backstory in a natural and interesting way?
- ___ Is backstory integrated into the story (vs. an information dump)?

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DIALOGUE

___ Is there a good balance between dialogue and narrative?

___ Does the dialogue progress the story and help build the suspense?

___ Does the narrative progress the story and help build the suspense?

___ Does the dialogue ring true (normal and conversational, not too stiff and unnatural)?

___ Do the dialogue and narrative provide characterization and move the story and/or relationships forward?

TIE BREAKER QUESTION Please rate your subjective response to this particular entry. This will be added to the total score **ONLY** in the event of a tie.

A COMPELLING READ 1-10 pts

___ How strongly do you want to keep reading?