

2008



Lone Star Writing Competition  
Young Adult

Manuscript Title _____ No. _____ Judge's No. _____
Category _____ Sub genre _____
Targeted Market _____

<b>CATEGORY CHAIR:</b> 1. Is the mms entered in the correct category? Yes/No 2. Are there 25 pp or less in the mms? Yes/No 3. Does the mms follow the contest guidelines? Yes/No	Possible score: 100  <b>Total score:</b> _____
---	--

**JUDGES: Please write constructive comments on the manuscript. Comments on the score sheet are highly encouraged. We want our contestants to have helpful feedback.**

Common abbreviations used by judges on the manuscript:  
**SDT**=show; don't tell. **AWK**=awkward sentence structure. **POV**=point of view shift.  
**FBP**=flying body parts. **CL**=cliché  
**DUMP**=information dump i.e. back story or dialogue as means of telling reader information without moving story forward.  
**REP**=repetition in story/need different way of saying the same thing.

Judge's Profile:

Published Romance  RWA Pro  Published Other  Trained Judge # of years writing \_\_\_\_\_

**Opening Scene:**

SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / 15 POINTS Available

Judges: Please justify your points:

+ = well done                      ✓ = shows promise    x = in need of improvement

- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the opening hook pull you into the story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the opening bogged down with back story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the first scene prompt you to read more?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a sense of time and place?

**Additional Comments:**

**Characterization:** SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **15** POINTS Available

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done**                      **✓ = shows promise**   **x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the main character(s) a multi-dimensional character and likeable, catching reader empathy?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the characters well-developed with believable strengths and flaws?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the main character(s) face problems in a believable manner?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the main character unique, well-defined and appropriate for the story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are secondary characters appropriate to the story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the heroine’s goals/conflicts identifiable?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the hero’s goals/conflicts identifiable?

**Additional Comments:**

**Plot:** SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **15** POINTS Available

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done**                      **✓ = shows promise**   **x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the story-line appropriate for the targeted age group?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the plot fresh and appealing even if it contains familiar romantic ingredients?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the story problem evident?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Can you see an initial hint of external conflict in these first pages?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does conflict (internal and external) flow naturally or does it seemed forced?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the pace fit the action, tone and tension of the story?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the pacing effective?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are transitions smooth and easy-to-follow?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the chapter end so you would want to turn the page?

**Additional Comments:**

**Narrative/Dialogue:** SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **20 POINTS Available**

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done**                      **✓ = shows promise**   **x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the narrative compelling with vivid descriptions and pertinent details?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are the five senses used to enhance the setting/emotions of the characters?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the setting recognizable?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the narrative intrusive?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are narrative and dialogue well balanced?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the dialogue natural for the young adult characters?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does each character have a distinctive voice?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the dialogue move the story forward or is it used as a back story/information dump?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is action interspersed with the dialogue so that characters aren't "talking heads"?

**Additional Comments:**

**Writing Technique:** SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **20 POINTS Available**

**Available**

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done**                      **✓ = shows promise**   **x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Is the entry presented professionally with few typos and generally-accepted punctuation?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Does the author have a unique voice that makes this manuscript stand out?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is writing easy-to-read with varied sentence length and structure that is suitable to the YA audience?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is action shown, not told?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is point of view handled appropriately?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are transitions of time and setting logical and smooth?

**Additional Comments:**

**YA Category Subgenre** SCORE \_\_\_\_\_ / **15 POINTS Available**

Judges: Please justify your points:

**+ = well done**                      **✓ = shows promise**   **x = in need of improvement**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Is there an appropriate amount of backstory that doesn't delay the action of a young adult read?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Is the conflict between the main characters appropriate for Young Adult readers?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Is the potential for the main character's growth apparent? (a willingness to learn)

**Additional Comments:**