



Tell-A-Tale Scoring Rubric



	Originality (1-4 points)	Story Structure (1-4 points)	Creative Expression (1-4 points)	Composition (1-4 points)
Distinguished (4 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is based on an original idea. • Writing includes certain elements of originality. For example, a unique voice or an unexpected outcome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer introduces the characters, setting and story problem in a particularly skilled way. • The writer resolves the story problem in a particularly satisfying way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is expressive, including figurative language and detailed descriptions that engage the reader. [GRADES 3+] • If illustrated, the illustrations are very engaging and enhance the writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing is well organized and unified with effective transitions. • Sentences are carefully crafted to create fluidity, interest and variety. [GRADES 3+] • There are no grammatical or word choice errors.
Proficient (3 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is based on an original idea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer introduces the characters, setting and story problem. • The writer resolves the story problem in a satisfying way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is expressive, including some figurative language and/or detailed description. [GRADES 3+] • If illustrated, the illustrations enhance the writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing is generally organized and unified. Effective transitions are used, but there may be lapses. • Sentences are effective with some variety. [GRADES 3+] • There are one or two distracting grammatical or word choice errors.
Apprentice (2 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is some evidence of original thought, but the idea is not wholly original. For example, an existing character in an original plot. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer introduces the characters, setting and story problem. • The writer attempts to resolve the story problem but wanders off-course or the resolution feels unsatisfying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing includes some descriptive words and includes efforts at figurative language, but needs improvement in order to engage the reader. [GRADES 3+] • If illustrated, the illustrations have been created with some care, but also show some evidence of being hurried or disinterested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The piece, while coherent, does not demonstrate an understanding of the audience's need for logic and order. Some transitions are awkward. • Sentence structure is generally simple with little attempt at variety and fluidity. [GRADES 3+] • There are several distracting grammatical and word choice errors.
Novice (1 point)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writing feels like a retelling rather than an original idea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The writer does not introduce the characters, setting and story problem or does so in a very confusing way. • The writer does not even attempt to resolve the story problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is very simple and lacks the creative enhancements needed to engage the reader. [GRADES 3+] • If illustrated, the illustrations appear to be an afterthought as they lack detail and craft. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The piece is not organized and is therefore hard to understand. • Sentences are simple or fragmented. [GRADES 3+] • Due to numerous grammatical and word choice errors, the writing is very difficult to understand.