



EGL Fiction Rubric - Middle Grade Category

	4. Exemplary	3. Above Average	2. Average	1. Lacking
Story Quality - Originality:	The narrative tells a highly original story, or provides a highly original take on a familiar story; adds a level of complexity that enhances the story's overall impact.	The narrative tells an original story, or provides an original take on a familiar story.	The narrative tells a somewhat original story, or provides a somewhat original take on a familiar story.	The narrative does not tell an original story, or provide an original take on a familiar story.
Story Quality - Structure:	The narrative is structured in a way that successfully enhances the key elements of the story without confusing the reader. The narrative structure is intentionally designed to add further intrigue and engagement.	The narrative is structured in a way that enhances the key elements of the story without confusing the reader.	The narrative is structured in a way that attempts to enhance the key elements of the story.	The narrative is not structured in a way that enhances key elements of the story.
Story Quality - Accessibility & Engagement:	The narrative's content is accessible and engaging for a wide variety of middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. Readers need no prior knowledge to comprehend the text, even when engaging with unfamiliar content.	The narrative's content is accessible and engaging for a variety of middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. Readers need little to no prior knowledge to comprehend the text.	The narrative's content is accessible for some middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. Readers might need some prior knowledge to comprehend the text.	The narrative's content is accessible to few middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. Readers might need some prior knowledge to comprehend the text.
Character Development:	Characters are original, compelling, and well-developed both visually and textually to significantly enhance the reading experience. Characters grow in a meaningful way and/or offer a compelling perspective that enhances the story's overall impact.	Characters are original, compelling, and well-developed both visually and textually to enhance the reading experience. Characters show some growth and/or offer a unique perspective.	Characters may be original or compelling, visually and/or textually. Some character attributes may feel unnecessary to the narrative.	Characters are not original or compelling. Most or all character attributes feel unnecessary to the narrative.

Settings:	Settings are original, compelling, and well-developed both visually and/or textually to significantly enhance the reading experience. Settings feel organic to the world within the narrative, actively add compelling elements to the story, and enhance the story's overall impact.	Settings are original, compelling, and well-developed both visually and/or textually to enhance the reading experience. Settings feel somewhat organic to the world within the narrative and add unique elements to the story.	Settings may be original or compelling, visually and/or textually. Some settings may feel undeveloped and/or forced to fit within the narrative.	Settings are not original or compelling. Most or all settings may feel undeveloped and forced to fit within the narrative.
Art, Layout, and Design:	Features highly original and compelling artwork & design elements, including title covers, that feel essential to one another and work in tandem to create a more engaging reading experience; removing or changing any element of the art & design would negatively affect the the story's overall impact.	Features original and compelling artwork & design elements, including title covers, that feel connected to one another and work in tandem to create an engaging reading experience; removing or changing certain elements of the art & design would negatively affect the the story's overall impact.	Features artwork & design elements that may be original and/or compelling, including title covers. The art feels somewhat independent of the text, such that removing or changing certain elements of the art & design may or may not affect the story's overall impact.	Features artwork & design elements that are not original or compelling. The art & design feel almost entirely independent of the text, such that removing or changing certain elements has no discernible affect on the overall narrative.
Educational Potential:	Offers educators extensive and varied opportunities to engage a wide variety of middle grade (grades 5-8) learners; readily accessible to educators as a teaching tool and offers learning experiences across a multitude of content areas.	Offers educators multiple opportunities to engage middle grade (grades 5-8) learners; accessible to educators as a teaching tool and offers learning experiences in some content areas.	Offers educators a few opportunities to engage some middle grade (grades 5-8) learners; somewhat accessible to educators as a teaching tool and offers learning experiences in limited content areas.	Offers educators few or no opportunities to engage middle grade (grades 5-8) learners; mostly inaccessible to educators as a teaching tool and offers few to no learning experiences.
Cultural Relevance :	Brings needed awareness and/or a fresh perspective on complex, timely, and relevant issues in today's world for a wide variety of middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. The creator(s) successfully addresses a contemporary issue in an accessible and impactful way that requires readers to reexamine their own perspectives.	Brings awareness and/or a fresh perspective on issues that may be complex, timely, or relevant in today's world for most middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. The creator(s) seek to address a contemporary issue in a way that may be accessible or impactful, and prompts readers to reexamine their own perspectives.	Attempts to bring awareness or a fresh perspective on issues that may be relevant in today's world for some middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. The creator(s) seek to address a contemporary issue in a way that might prompt readers to reexamine their own perspectives.	Fails to bring awareness or a fresh perspective on issues that are relevant in today's world for middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. The creator(s) fail to address a contemporary issue in a way that prompts readers to reexamine their own perspectives.

Rubrics are subject to change in 2021 based on recommendations from EGL Jurors, Chairs, and Advisory Board Members