



EGL Nonfiction Rubric - Middle Grade Category

	4. Exemplary	3. Above Average	2. Average	1. Lacking
Story Quality - Originality & Structure:	The narrative provides a highly original take on nonfiction content and/or is structured in a way that improves comprehension, adds further intrigue, and enhance the story's overall impact.	The narrative provides an original take on nonfiction content and/or is structured in a way that enhances the story's overall impact.	The narrative provides a somewhat original take on nonfiction content and/or is structured in a way that somewhat enhances the story's overall impact.	The narrative does not provide an original take on nonfiction content nor is it structured in a way that enhances the story's overall impact.
Story Quality - Accessibility:	Content is highly accessible and appropriate 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 nonfiction content.	Content is accessible and appropriate for a variety of middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. Readers need little to no prior knowledge to comprehend the nonfiction content.	Content is accessible for some middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. Readers might need some prior knowledge to comprehend the nonfiction content.	Content is accessible to few to no middle grade (grades 5-8) readers. Readers need significant prior knowledge to comprehend the nonfiction content.
Story Quality - Engagement:	The narrative is highly engaging and successfully enhances the key nonfiction elements of the story without confusing the reader.	The narrative is engaging and enhances the key nonfiction elements of the story without confusing the reader.	The narrative is somewhat engaging and attempts to enhance the key nonfiction elements of the story.	The narrative is not engaging and does not enhance key nonfiction elements of the story.
Authenticity:	Characters & settings are highly accurate, compelling and well-developed both visually and textually to significantly enhance the reading experience.	Characters & settings are mostly accurate, compelling and well-developed both visually and textually to enhance the reading experience.	Characters & settings are somewhat accurate and compelling, visually and/or textually. Some characters and/or settings may feel unnecessary or out-of-place within the nonfiction story.	Characters & settings are not accurate or compelling. Most or all characters & settings feel unnecessary or out-of-place within the nonfiction story.

Depth & Complexity	The work gives a well-researched, complex, and compelling take on nonfiction content. The work provides new and varied perspective/s on the nonfiction content in order to enhance the overall impact on readers.	The work gives a researched and somewhat complex take on nonfiction content. The work offers a somewhat compelling, varied, and/or unique perspective/s on the nonfiction content.	The work gives a somewhat researched take on nonfiction content. Some elements may feel underdeveloped and/or forced.	The work is not researched or compelling. Most or all story elements feel undeveloped and forced.
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 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 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 feels almost entirely independent of the text, such that removing or changing certain elements has no discernible effect 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