

SHORT FICTION

Format: Online

Early Submission Requirements:

- Competitors must submit their Short Fiction piece and written statement, 2 weeks before the Regional Tournament.

Registration Guidelines:

1. A limit of two (2) students from each team may register for this competition.
2. Each student competes individually, so collaboration is not permitted.

Procedure:

1. Competitors must identify a target audience on the title page.
2. No forms of AI are permitted for this competition. Any usage is grounds for point loss and/or disqualification.
3. PDF copy of the short fiction piece must be submitted via MyMIST two weeks before the Regional Tournament.
 - a. Late submissions will result in a point deduction on your final score.
4. This will be an entirely virtual competition. As such, competitors are not required to turn in a copy during the tournament.
 - a. Entries should be typed in black ink only.
5. All submissions must:
 - a. Be either single or double spaced
 - b. Have a cover page with the title, MIST ID, and intended audience age group only. The competitor name or other identifying markers must not appear anywhere on the submission.
 - c. Be typed on 8.5 X 11 inch paper.
 - d. No more than 10 pages (exclusive of title page and written statement), Times New Roman, 12 pt font.
 - e. Include a written statement based on the interview questions
6. Competitors will be judged according to the Short Fiction Ballot.

Checklist:

- PDF copy of written Short Fiction piece and Written statement submitted on MyMIST 2 weeks prior to the tournament.
- Written statement based on interview questions (Section D of Short Fiction Ballot).
- Both the submission and the written statement should be clearly labeled with:
 - MIST IDs
 - Name of Competition

DETAILED BALLOT: SHORT FICTION

Section A: Technical

Points: 5

- Short Fiction piece does not exceed 10 (ten) pages.
- There are no identifiers on the submission aside from their MIST ID.

Section B: Content

Conventions

Points: 5

- Is the piece mostly free of spelling mistakes?
- Is the piece mostly free of punctuation mistakes?
- Is the piece mostly free of grammatical mistakes?

Ideas and Development

Points: 15

- Did the writer address the theme in a clear manner?
- Did the writer take a unique approach when addressing the theme?
- Did the writer stay on topic throughout the entire submission?
- Was the main idea or message clear to the reader?

Organization

Points: 10

- Is the title relevant and applicable to the story?
- Does the story have a logical series of events?
- Were there adequate details that led to a natural flow between introduction, plot, climax, and resolution?
- Were the paragraphs well-developed with natural transitions?
- Was the story original, not falling into cliché story lines?

Sentence Fluency

Points: 15

- Did the writer vary sentence types by using a mixture of simple and complex sentences?
- Do most sentences begin with different words?
- When read aloud, do the sentences flow well together?
- Was dialogue used where appropriate?

Section C: Style

Word Choice

Points: 20

- Did the writer use thoughtful adjectives to create more vivid imagery?
- Did the writer use strong action verbs to support the essay's message (i.e. "cruise" instead of "drive," or "stroll" instead of "walk")?
- Did the writer use precise nouns to help present a clear and distinct message (i.e. "7th Grade students" instead of just "students," or "Science project" instead of "project")?
- Was the dialogue formatted in an appropriate way?
- Did the overall usage of words create color and texture in the writing? Was it clear that this writer took risks with their word choice?

Voice

Points: 15

- Was the writer able to distinguish a clear voice in the story?
- Is the tone natural and consistent, reflecting original thinking and expression?
- Does the writer capture a tone or mood with his/her words?
- Does the writer appropriately reach the target audience?

Section D: Application of Theme

Written Statement

Points: 15

- There is a strong, clearly evident relevance to the theme.
- The theme is expressed in a unique or outstanding way.
- Purpose and inspiration of writings are clearly articulated and show evidence of reflection and/or research.
- Short Fiction piece is easily understandable for Muslim and non-Muslim alike.

Judges will use the following questions to gauge the competitors' understanding of the theme and how it was expressed in their work. Judges will then proceed to scoring.

1. How did you aim to convey this year's theme in your work? In what ways does your written piece represent your individual point of view, imagination, creativity, and individuality?
2. Explain your purpose in writing this piece and describe how you achieved that goal. Describe any influences from literature, written pieces, writers or styles that contributed to the development of this written piece.
3. What elements or principles of writing did you use?

SHORT FICTION BALLOT

		Subtotal
Section A	Technical	____ / 5 points
Section B	Conventions	____ / 5 points
Section B	Ideas and Development	____ / 15 points
Section B	Organization	____ / 10 points
Section B	Sentence Fluency	____ / 15 points
Section C	Word Choice	____ / 20 points
Section C	Voice	____ / 15 points
Section D	Overall Experience	____ / 15 points

Total: ____/100 Points

Overall Judges Comments and Feedback
