Judging Criteria: Short Stories
Each criterion receives a point score of from 1 to 10. Maximum score: 150.

Does the story open with a compelling hook that makes the reader want to continue reading?
Does the setting provide a believable, appropriate, and/or natural framework for the story?
Are the main characters multidimensional, with evidence (or at least hints) that they have weaknesses as well as strengths?
Does the conflict arise believably from the characters' motivations and goals?
By the end of the story, does the reader have a strong sense of satisfaction that the conflict has been resolved and that the character has grown and changed?
Does the author present the work with a distinctive voice and an engaging style of expression?
Is each character's voice consistent and appropriate for his/her age, education, gender, ethnicity, etc.?
Is point of view handled correctly?
Is the dialogue natural, not stilted or overly narrative?
Does each scene have a clear and necessary relationship with the scenes that precede and follow it?
Does the proportion of showing versus telling produce an active and engaging story flow?
Is the necessary backstory and exposition presented in an artful and well-balanced manner via narration and/or dialog?
Is the pacing appropriate for the unfolding story – does it move rapidly enough to sustain interest?
Is the story told in a clear and focused manner without overusing adjectives and adverbs?
Is the work without grammar errors; or, if errors exist, are they necessary for the story's atmosphere?
Total Score_____