

The 2019 Phoenix Rattler Writing Contest – Score Sheet

Judge # _____

Entry # _____

Manuscript Title: First

5 words:

Element of Writing	Description/Comment	Score (1-10)
1. Hooks:	Does the opening line or paragraph immediately hook the reader into the story? Comment:	
2. Style:	Is the writer’s voice distinct and unique? Does the writer utilize showing and telling skillfully? Is the writing fresh and original? Comment:	
3. Professional Impact:	Does the author have a grasp on the elements of grammar, spelling and punctuation? Comment:	
4. Setting:	Does the setting support the story? Is the sense of time and place established? Is it easy to picture? Comment:	
5. Characters:	Is the main character identifiable yet unique? Do secondary characters contribute to the story? Do characters’ emotions seem believable and/or provide understandable motive? Comment:	
6. Conflict:	Are character motivations powerful enough to create sufficient conflict? Is a potential for conflict established that is strong enough to move the story forward? Comment:	
7. Dialogue:	Is the dialogue between characters natural, revealing plot and emotion in a way that narrative cannot? Are the characters’ voices distinct and appropriate for the setting and genre? Comment:	
8. Narrative & Point of View:	Is narrative well-placed with the dialogue? Background information is presented at appropriate times and in the correct POV. POV is clear and consistent. POV changes are smooth and logical. Comment:	
9. Pacing:	Does the story flow smoothly, giving a sense of movement? Does every scene move the story forward? Comment:	
10. Story:	Does the story hold your interest to the end of the entry? If inspirational, does this element grow organically out of character or plot? Comment:	
11. Believability:	Does everything in the story build logically, plausibly and believably toward the end/climax of the entry? Comment:	
12. Overall Writing	The writing has potential; appropriate to the genre; humor/drama are used effectively. (Other general impressions as specified) Comments:	

13. Story Marketability	Does this story have potential in the current marketplace? Comment:	
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MANDATORY Tie Breakers: (these scores will only be used in the event of a tie)

A. If you were/are an editor, how likely would you be to ask for a full manuscript? Comment:	
B. If you were/are an agent, how likely would you be to represent this writer? Comment:	

Suggested Scoring Key: (judges may alter this key via comments)

- 9-10 Ready for an editor’s desk
- 7-8 Minor revisions needed
- 5-6 Shows promise, but more revisions needed
- 3-4 Extensive revisions needed
- 1-2 Study the elements of writing for this score before revising

Scores will be totaled by contest coordinators

Thank you, contest judge!
 And thank you, contest entrant!
 It has been our great pleasure to bring you together.
 We pray that this contest has been a blessing to you.

Christian Writers of the West (CWOW), Arizona’s ACFW club Host of The Phoenix Rattler writing contest www.christianwritersofthewest.com