

The 2014 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

<p>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.</p> <p><i>Christian Writers of the West (CWOW), Arizona's ACFW club</i> <i>Host of The Phoenix Rattler writing contest</i> www.christianwritersofthewest.com</p>
