

Seven Hills Writing Contest

Tallahassee Writers Association

Category: **Flash Fiction**

Flash fiction is a work of extremely brief fictional prose. Maximum word length for this contest is 500 words.

Scale: 5 Excellent 4 Very Good 3 Fair 2 Needs Work 1 Poor

The following are simply guidelines. Every piece must be considered on its own merits.

- ___ 1. MECHANICS - Do word count and format conform to contest rules? Is manuscript free of grammatical, spelling and punctuation errors?
- ___ 2. HOOK - Is the reader drawn into the story/character from the beginning?
- ___ 3. PROTAGONIST(S) - Are they interesting and believable?
- ___ 4. ANTAGONIST(S) - Do we get a sense of their motivation?
- ___ 5. TECHNIQUE – Does the story start in the middle of the action? Is the point of view consistent? Is there a proper balance between showing and telling? Does active voice predominate over the passive?
- ___ 6. LANGUAGE USE - Is the writing fresh and free of cliches? Does the choice of words keep the reader embedded in the story? Does the writer rely on strong nouns and verbs?
- ___ 7. DIALOGUE AND NARRATIVE - Does any dialogue sound natural to the characters and the situation? Is there a proper balance between dialogue and narrative?
- ___ 8. SETTING - Is the story focused on one strong image?
- ___ 9. CONFLICT/OBSTACLES - Is the protagonist presented with a need/desire to solve a problem, and obstacles preventing their fulfillment?
- ___ 10. RESOLUTION – Is there a sense of mystery in the story? Is the reader left guessing until the end? Is there a twist to the ending when all becomes apparent?
- ___ 11. STRUCTURE – Does the structure of the story suit the material? Does it drive the story toward the resolution? Did the writer find the best entry and exit point? Is the ending earned and yet unexpected?
- ___ 12. ORIGINALITY – Does the story seem fresh and original? Does it have its own twists on character, plot, and setting that make it unique? Did the author search for the small idea inside the large one?