

CRIT SHEET

Rate the story in each of the following categories using 1 through 5 (5 being the best):

The Hook - does the story pull the reader in right away and then hold their interest?

The Conflict - what is at stake in the story, and how is the tension used?

The Characters - are these compelling, real people whom the reader cares about?

Setting and Mood - does the story make the reader feel like they are really there?

Pace and Style - how well does the writer use the words to move the story along?

Resolution - does it have a satisfying ending?

Grammar and Spelling - this must be perfect, no exceptions.

Overall enjoyment - was this a story you'd actually buy?

These eight topics, worth five points each, are a good indicator of if a story is publishable or not. The higher the point total, the likelier the story can be sold.

Hook	
Conflict	
Characters	
Setting/Mood	
Pace/Style	
Resolution	
Spelling/Grammar	
Enjoyment	

You can use this Crit Sheet for short stories and novels, published or pre-published. You can also give it to readers and ask them to rate your story. A score of 35 or higher is ready to be submitted to markets.