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| **Criteria** | **Not Yet Within Expectations** | **Meets Expectations Minimally** | **Fully Meets Expectations** | **Exceeds Expectations** |
| **Meaning** | * Creates a story around a very simple and direct idea; may be very short, illogical, or based on another work * Little relevant detail and description to develop characters, events, and images * Little sense of audience; may include inappropriate material | * Relatively simple, concrete story; often predictable with parts modelled on other works * Some detail and description to develop setting, characters, events and mages * Limited sense of audience; focuses on form rather than impact | * Creates a straightforward story; may feature some complexity or originality * Uses detail and description to develop setting, characters, events and images * Some sense of audience; ideas and language have some impact | * Creates a story with some complexity, originality, and creative development * Uses detail and description to develop setting, characters, events, images, themes * Sense of audience; creates an emotional impact or makes a point |
| **Style** | * Little sentence variety; sentences tend to be short and choppy or long and awkward * Language is conversational and may be inappropriate * Tells does not show with descriptive language | * Some sentence variety; uses complex sentences but some problems with subordination * Language is generally clear, appropriate, and direct; * Limited word choice; some attempt at using descriptive language | * Variety of sentences; more complex structures may be awkward * Language is clear, appropriate; descriptive language attempts to appeal to senses and emotions | * Flows smoothly; uses a variety of sentence types and lengths effectively * Language is varied and precise; description language appeals to sense and emotions bringing ideas to life |
| **Form** | * Beginning does not establish the problem or situation * Series of weakly connected events without a clear problem or resolution * Ending is often abrupt and may be illogical * Characters are identified; physical descriptions only | * Beginning describes the problem or situation and introduces the main character/s * Story develops through a series of related events; the connections among some events may be unclear * Ending seems forced or unlikely * Characters are described but stereotypical | * Beginning introduces problem, characters; tries to engage reader * Generally predictable events are believable within mini story * Characters are partly revealed through their words and behavior; they may be somewhat stereotypical | * Engaging beginning reveals the mini story problem and introduces character/s * Develops conflict through events that are believable within mini story context * Ending is plausible; may be surprising, humorous * Characters have some individuality |
| **Conventions** | * Frequent errors in simple words and structures often interfere with meaning | * Errors in basic words and structures are noticeable but do not obscure meaning | * Errors in more complex language are sometimes noticeable, but meaning is clear | * May include occasional errors where the writer is taking risks with complex language; these do not interfere with meaning |