

**2008 WILLA CATEGORY RUBRIC**  
**CHILDREN'S/YA – NONFICTION**

<b>Nonfiction</b>	Ineligible	4-7 points	8-10 points
1. Women of the West Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male main character(s); no relevant theme</li> <li>• Book not set in or pertain to the west*</li> <li>• Does not portray authentic western experience</li> <li>• Theme &amp; content do not reflect WWW's mission &amp; goals</li> <li>• Little or no educational merit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least half of the characters female; relevant theme</li> <li>• Book set in the west but could have happened anywhere; or, book partly set in the west*</li> <li>• Generally portrays authentic western experience</li> <li>• Theme &amp; content generally well reflect WWW's mission &amp; goals</li> <li>• Moderate educational merit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female main character(s), relevant theme</li> <li>• Western setting primary &amp; essential*</li> <li>• Consistently portrays authentic western experience</li> <li>• Theme &amp; content excellent reflections of WWW's mission &amp; goals</li> <li>• Excellent educational merit</li> </ul>
2. Characterization	<p style="text-align: center;">0 – 3 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depictions of people not well developed, or depiction not appropriate for target audience</li> <li>• Stereotypes evident**</li> <li>• People portrayed of little interest to a child</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 – 7 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somewhat complex depictions of people (as appropriate for target audience)</li> <li>• Generally no gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes presented**</li> <li>• People portrayed of some interested to a child</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;">8 – 10 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complex depictions of people (as appropriate for target audience)</li> <li>• No gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes presented**</li> <li>• People portrayed of strong interest to a child</li> </ul>

	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
3. Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting not important</li> <li>• Setting not described, or described poorly</li> <li>• Setting not described accurately</li> <li>• Illustrations (if used) rarely complement or match text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting of moderate importance</li> <li>• Setting described in conventional terms</li> <li>• Setting usually described accurately</li> <li>• Illustrations (if used) usually complement or match text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sense of place is inherent in the book</li> <li>• Setting vividly described, using all senses</li> <li>• Setting described accurately</li> <li>• Illustrations (if used) consistently complement or match text</li> </ul>
4. Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas</li> <li>• Premise or subject predictable, or poorly considered</li> <li>• Narrative poorly developed</li> <li>• Beginning slow, confusing; conclusion not satisfying</li> <li>• Topic or theme of little interest to a child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas</li> <li>• Premise or subject not new, but well done</li> <li>• Narrative moderately well developed</li> <li>• Slow beginning leads to more action; conclusion somewhat satisfying</li> <li>• Topic or theme of some interest to a child</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas</li> <li>• Premise or subject shows originality, freshness</li> <li>• Narrative very well developed</li> <li>• Opening draws reader in; ending is satisfying</li> <li>• Topic or theme of strong interest to a child</li> </ul>

	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
5. Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative voice lacking or confusing</li> <li>• Quotations (if used) poorly integrated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative voice dependable</li> <li>• Quotations (if used) generally well integrated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative voice fresh, engaging, distinct</li> <li>• Quotations (if used) effectively integrated</li> </ul>
6. Literary Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clumsy language</li> <li>• Imagery confusing</li> <li>• Text &amp; illustrations (if used) not well matched</li> <li>• Not enjoyable or thought-provoking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smooth language</li> <li>• Imagery clear</li> <li>• Text &amp; illustrations (if used) generally well matched</li> <li>• A pleasant read</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear command of language</li> <li>• Imagery vivid &amp; fresh</li> <li>• Text &amp; illustrations (if used) create a single whole</li> <li>• Enjoyable, thought-provoking</li> </ul>
7. Technical Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book difficult to follow; poorly organized</li> <li>• Writing too wordy, or includes extraneous material</li> <li>• Poor grasp of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation, etc.</li> <li>• Word count, vocabulary, sentence length. not appropriate for target audience</li> <li>• Citations (if used) confusing, incomplete; or, citations needed***</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book generally readable; moderately well organized</li> <li>• Writing generally tight, with some redundancies or extraneous material</li> <li>• Good grasp of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation, etc.</li> <li>• Word count, vocabulary, sentence length generally well suited for target audience</li> <li>• Citations (if used) generally good***</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book consistently easily readable, flows well; well organized</li> <li>• Writing tight</li> <li>• Clear command of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation etc.</li> <li>• Word count, vocabulary, sentence length carefully chosen for target audience</li> <li>• Citations (if used) clear, effective***</li> </ul>

	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
8. Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unattractive cover art &amp; design</li> <li>• Interior design features lacking</li> <li>• Font &amp; typesetting difficult to read</li> <li>• Illustrations (if used) of poor quality, not identified, or irrelevant to text</li> <li>• Illustrations (if used) not well balanced or matched with text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate cover art &amp; design</li> <li>• Interior design features adequate</li> <li>• Font &amp; typesetting adequate</li> <li>• Illustrations (if used) of moderate clarity, mostly identified; may not always be germane to the text</li> <li>• Illustrations (if used) provide good balance with text</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attractive, appropriate, compelling cover art &amp; design</li> <li>• Interior design features reflect book's tone</li> <li>• Font &amp; typesetting clear &amp; well-chosen</li> <li>• Illustrations (if used) appropriate, clear, identified</li> <li>• Illustrations (if used) provide excellent balance with text</li> </ul>

\* WWW defines “the west” as all of North America west of the Mississippi River.

\*\* An author’s depiction of a real individual’s biases or stereotypical views, presented in context, may be appropriate.

\*\*\* Citations might include endnotes, an author’s note, glossary, suggested bibliography, or other supplemental information.

This rubric was created by and for Women Writing the West, October, 2006.