

2008 WILLA CATEGORY RUBRIC

CREATIVE NONFICTION

Creative Nonfiction	Ineligible	4-7 points	8-10 points
1. Women of the West Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central focus and theme of the narrative is a male experience • Book not set in or does not pertain to the west* • Does not portray an authentic western experience • Theme & content do not reflect WWW’s mission & goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least half the focus and theme of the narrative is a female experience • Book set in the west but could have happened anywhere; or, book partly set in the west* • Generally portrays authentic western experience • Theme & content generally well reflect WWW’s mission & goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central focus and theme of the narrative is a female experience • Western setting primary & essential* • Consistently portrays authentic western experience • Theme & content excellent reflections of WWW’s mission & goal
	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
2. Characterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depictions of people not well developed • Stereotypes evident** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somewhat complex depictions of people • Generally no gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes presented** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex depictions of people • No gender, ethnic, racial, or other stereotypes presented**

	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
3. Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting not important • Setting not described, or described poorly • Setting not described accurately • Illustrations (if used) rarely complement or match text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting of moderate importance • Setting described in conventional terms • Setting usually described accurately • Illustrations (if used) usually complement or match text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sense of place is inherent in the book • Setting vividly described, using all five senses • Setting described accurately • Illustrations (if used) consistently complement or match text
4. Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Biographical Work) Authorial knowledge of the subject not established • (Autobiographical Work) Straight story-telling with no attempt at authorial introspection • Poor presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas • Premise or subject predictable, or poorly considered • Beginning slow, confusing; conclusion not satisfying • Solicits no emotional response from the reader • Reveals no universal truths about human nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Biographical Work) Authorial knowledge of the subject generally or partially established • (Autobiographical Work) Author integrates some introspection • Fair presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas • Premise or subject not new, but well done • Slow beginning leads to more action; conclusion somewhat satisfying • Solicits some emotional response from the reader • Reveals some universal truths about human nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Biographical Work) Authorial knowledge of the subject fully and credibly established • (Autobiographical Work) Author engages in relevant and meaningful introspection • Excellent presentation of facts, concepts, or ideas • Premise or subject shows originality, freshness • Opening draws reader in; ending is satisfying • Solicits meaningful emotional response from the reader • Reveals universal truths about human nature on several levels

	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
5. Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative voice lacking or confusing • Voice bland • Voice insensitive or disrespectful • Tone out of sync with the seriousness/lightness of the topic • Dialog (if used) stilted • Quotations (if used) poorly integrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative voice dependable • Voice generally engaging • Voice generally sensitive and respectful • Tone generally in harmony with the topic • Some, but not all, dialog (if used) sounds natural and believable • Quotations (if used) generally well integrated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrative voice highly dependable and believable • Narrative voice fresh, engaging, and distinct • Voice highly sensitive and respectful • Tone harmonious with the topic • Dialog (if used) sounds natural and believable • Quotations (if used) effectively integrated
6. Literary Qualities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clumsy language • Imagery confusing, cliched • Text & illustrations (if used) not well matched • Not enjoyable or thought-provoking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth language • Imagery clear • Text & illustrations (if used) generally well matched • A pleasant read and occasionally thought-provoking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artful use of language • Imagery vivid & fresh • Text & illustrations (if used) integrated fully • Enjoyable, thought-provoking, timeless significance

	0 – 3 points	4 – 7 points	8 – 10 points
7. Technical Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book difficult to follow; poorly organized • Writing too wordy, or includes extraneous material • Poor grasp of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation, etc. • Citations (if used) confusing, incomplete; or, citations needed*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book generally readable; moderately well organized • Writing generally tight, with some redundancies or extraneous material • Good grasp of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation, etc. • Citations (if used) generally good*** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book consistently easily readable, flows well; well organized • Writing tight • Clear command of basic conventions of grammar, punctuation etc. • Citations (if used) clear, effective***
8. Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unattractive cover art & design • Interior design features lacking • Font & typesetting difficult to read • Illustrations (if used) of poor quality, not identified, or irrelevant to text • Illustrations (if used) not well balanced or matched with text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate cover art & design • Interior design features adequate • Font & typesetting adequate • Illustrations (if used) of moderate clarity, mostly identified; may not always be germane to the text • Illustrations (if used) provide good balance with text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive, appropriate, compelling cover art & design • Interior design features reflect book's tone • Font & typesetting clear & well-chosen • Illustrations (if used) appropriate, clear, identified • Illustrations (if used) provide excellent balance with text

* 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.

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