

## **Creative Writing**

### **An excellent story . . .**

- ✓ catches the reader's attention by beginning in a surprising, appealing, or thought-provoking way
- ✓ uses vivid, precise description and sensory details to describe characters, plot, and setting
- ✓ includes realistic dialogue
- ✓ introduces a central conflict that affects the main character
- ✓ describes events in chronological order, including transition words where they are needed
- ✓ has a believable, satisfying conclusion that shows how the main character has developed

### **An average story . . .**

- ✓ includes an introductory paragraph that makes sense but doesn't draw the reader in
- ✓ introduces characters, plot, and setting, but sometimes "tells" about them by listing qualities instead of "showing" by describing actions or sensory details
- ✓ has dialogue that occasionally sounds flat or unrealistic
- ✓ includes a conflict of some kind
- ✓ describes events in sequence but uses few transitions
- ✓ ends too suddenly, with a cliché, or in a way that has little or no effect on the main character

### **A poor story . . .**

- ✓ has a confusing introduction or no introduction
- ✓ gives little or no description of setting or characters
- ✓ lacks dialogue and an interesting central conflict
- ✓ describes events in no particular order
- ✓ ends in an unsatisfying way because the reader does not know what has happened or why it matters