

Quick Scale: Grade 8 Writing Stories

This Quick Scale is a summary of the Rating Scale on pages 364–365. Both describe student achievement in March–April of the school year. Stories are usually required to be carefully revised, edited, and proofread.

Aspect	Not Yet Within Expectations	Meets Expectations (Minimal Level)	Fully Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
SNAPSHOT	<i>The story is an attempt at the required type but is seriously flawed by problems in logic, style, and mechanics. May be very short.</i>	<i>The story is direct and complete, with some detail, although ideas are not fully developed, and parts are flawed by errors. Attempts required form.</i>	<i>The story is clear and logical; develops a theme, central idea, or problem with some detail. Uses the required form.</i>	<i>The story is expressive, featuring some engaging ideas or language. Form and style help to develop and enhance meaning; some emotional impact.</i>
MEANING • ideas and information • use of detail • sense of audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> relatively simple, concrete story; often predictable, with parts modelled on other works some detail and description to develop setting, characters, events, and images; development is uneven limited sense of audience; focuses on form rather than impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 • clarity, variety, and impact of language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> little sentence variety; sentences tend to be short and choppy or long and awkward language is conversational and may be inappropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> some sentence variety; uses complex sentences, but some problems with subordination language is generally clear, appropriate, and direct; often imprecise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> variety of sentences; more complex structures may be awkward language is clear, appropriate, and varied 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> flows smoothly; uses a variety of sentence types and lengths effectively language is varied and often precise; experiments; may “play” with language
FORM • beginning • development • ending • characters • dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; description tends to focus on physical traits needed dialogue is often omitted or confusing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 often seems forced or unlikely characters are described; stereotypic often overuses or underuses dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> beginning introduces problem, characters; tries to engage generally predictable events are believable within story context ending is logical characters are partly revealed through their words and behaviour; they may be somewhat stereotypic dialogue may add to plot, characterization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> engaging beginning reveals the story problem and introduces the character(s) develops conflict through events that are believable within story context ending is plausible; may be surprising, humorous characters have some individuality, revealed by what they do and say dialogue may add interest and develop plot and character
CONVENTIONS • complete sentences • spelling • punctuation • grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequent errors in simple words and structures often interfere with meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> errors in basic words and structures are noticeable but do not obscure meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> errors in more complex language are sometimes noticeable, but meaning is clear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> may include occasional errors where the writer is taking risks with complex language; these do not interfere with meaning