



TMAC SCORING CRITERIA / MATRIX

Category: Best Adventure Story

Type: Written

Description: This category celebrates stories where the activity itself takes centre stage. From soft or hard adventures to sporting events, stories should immerse readers and bring the experience to life. Topics might include canoe trips, hiking, skydiving, biking, snorkeling, or other outdoor pursuits that inspire and excite.

Judging Considerations: While category descriptions provide general guidance, winning entries should clearly align with the specified parameters. Written stories are to be judged on **words only**—images, layout, and design should be disregarded, if they aren't removed already during the submission process. Judges should assign a score for each criterion (e.g., 0–5 or 0–10 points per category, with no half-points). The total possible score is 35 points. The entry with the highest cumulative score will be deemed the winner. In the event of a tie, the final decision will be determined through discussion among the judges during the final deliberation meeting.

Criteria	Points
Style & Creativity Considers originality, tone, and storytelling approach. Does the story present adventure experiences from a unique or engaging perspective? Is the tone effective, consistent, and exciting? Is the language strong, vivid, and immersive?	10
Quality of Content Evaluates the craft and structure of the piece. Is the lead compelling, and does it draw the reader in? Does the story flow logically with good transitions and organization? Is there evidence of thorough research or firsthand experience, with effective use of facts, anecdotes, or quotes? Does it include essential and accurate information?	10
Impact Measures how well the story achieves its purpose. Does it succeed in entertaining, inspiring, or educating readers about the adventure or journey? Does it leave a lasting impression or spark curiosity and a desire to experience the adventure firsthand?	10
Overall excellence Reflects the “wow” factor. Does the story stand out as exceptional within its category? Does it leave the reader with a sense of awe, excitement, or a desire to explore further?	5
Total	35

