

WEST HOUSTON RWA -- *EMILY* CONTEST -- 2009 WFFudge # _____

Manuscript Title _____

Number _____

Point Total _____

Possible points: 100

- Scoring:**
- 5 **Excellent, ready to submit**
 - 4 **Almost there, needs only a little polish**
 - 3 **Average, shows promise**
 - 2 **Below average, needs work**
 - 1 **Major problems. Author may not be aware of this element.**

JUDGES: Please do not give a score of *zero*. Please write a comment if a score of 1 or 2 is given.

STYLE --30 points

- _____ Shows rather than tells.
- _____ Style is easy-to-read with a rhythm created by varied sentence length and structure and smooth transitions.
- _____ Descriptions are vivid and give reader a sense of time and place.
- _____ Information is fed in naturally, as needed—not too much or too little at a time.
- _____ Narrative, dialogue, action and introspection interwoven and balanced and viewpoint is handled well.
- _____ Grammar, punctuation and spelling do not detract from the story.

Subtotal Score: _____

Comments _____

PLOT/CONFLICT – 20 points

- _____ The opening draws reader immediately into story.
- _____ Pacing is appropriate. Each scene promotes and advances plot.
- _____ Relationships between characters are intriguing.
- _____ External and internal conflict are evident and strong enough to sustain a novel length manuscript.

Subtotal Score: _____

Comments _____

DIALOGUE -- 15 points

- _____ Each character has a distinctive voice.
- _____ Dialogue is natural and moves the story forward, is not used merely for exposition.
- _____ Dialogue is appropriate for time and place.

Subtotal Score: _____

Comments _____

CHARACTERIZATION-HEROINE -- 30 points

- _____ She is a compelling, three-dimensional person, strong enough to justify her starring role.
 - _____ Motivation is apparent, actions and reactions are believable and consistent.
 - _____ She is a character the reader can relate to, not too perfect, with flaws as well as virtues.
 - _____ Her goals are introduced.
 - _____ Her interaction with other characters is meaningful and believable.
 - _____ Other characters are appropriate to the story and serve a distinct purpose.
- Subtotal Score: _____

Comments _____

GENERAL IMPRESSION—5 points

- _____ Is your interest piqued? Did these pages reel you in? Are you wondering what will happen next?
Would you buy this book to find out how it ends?
- Subtotal Score: _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS _____

Judge's Name (optional) _____

Published in romance _____ Other _____
Completed judge training _____ RWA Pro _____