

CONNections 2005

~ Award for Unpublished Authors ~

Manuscript Title: _____ Entry # _____

Category _____ Judge # _____

TOTAL SCORE (200 points possible): _____ CONNections SCORE (20 points possible): _____

Please rate each area 1 - 5. Judges are encouraged to write directly on the manuscript as well as on the scoresheet.

5 = Outstanding; ready to make the "CONNection" with an editor!

4 = Very good; just needs minor polishing

3 = Good; nice work but could be improved

2 = Fair; needs development; rework suggested

1 = Problematic; substantial revision recommended

1. OPENING:

Possible score 20 _____

_____ Starts in the appropriate place and draws the reader into the story.

_____ Elements of conflict or characterization are present that make you want to read on.

_____ Is a sense of time and place established?

_____ Is the initial situation clear and unconfusing?

Comments:

2. STYLE:

Possible score 30 _____

_____ Does the author successfully use strong verbs and vivid language?

_____ Is point of view clear and effective?

_____ Are point of view changes logical and unobtrusive? (If single POV, is POV deep and engaging?)

_____ Does a variety of sensory details and sentence length enhance the mood/tone of each scene?

_____ Does the author avoid clichéd speech, phrases and descriptions?

_____ Is the author's voice engaging and readable?

Comments:

3. CHARACTERIZATION:

Possible score 25 _____

_____ Does each character have a unique personality?

_____ Is hero and/or heroine sympathetic, likeable and/or intriguing despite possible flaws?

_____ Are the main characters clearly identified/defined?

_____ Do main characters show personal growth and development by the end of the story?

_____ Do secondary characters support rather than overwhelm the main plot/romance?

Comments:

4. NARRATIVE:

Possible score 20 _____

- _____ Do the narrative passages move the story forward?
- _____ Does narrative effectively avoid backstory dumping or excessive rehashing of issues/ideas?
- _____ Is there a balance between dialogue and narrative?
- _____ Are the personalities of the characters evident in the narrative (minimal telling vs. showing, no author intrusion)?

Comments:

5. DIALOGUE:

Possible score 25 _____

- _____ Is the dialogue natural, not stilted or overly narrative or inappropriate to the time period?
- _____ Is dialogue used effectively to move the story forward?
- _____ Does dialogue effectively reveal personality/conflict/characterization?
- _____ Is dialogue sparkling and/or compelling?
- _____ Are dialogue tags unobtrusive, enhancing the tone and not overwhelming the dialogue?

Comments:

6. CONFLICT/MOTIVATION:

Possible score 25 _____

- _____ Is the external conflict of the protagonist evident?
- _____ Is the internal conflict of the protagonist evident?
- _____ Does the romantic conflict become evident in the course of the entry?
- _____ Do the goals and motivations of the main characters create genuine conflict?
- _____ Is the conflict compelling/complex enough to carry a book of the projected length?

Comments:

7. ROMANCE/RELATIONSHIP:

Possible score 25 _____

- _____ Does the first meeting between the hero and heroine occur at a point in the story appropriate for the story length/type?*
 - _____ Does the romance develop at a pace appropriate for the story length/type?*
 - _____ Are you intrigued/excited by the potential for romance between the hero and heroine?*
 - _____ Does the romantic relationship endure highs and lows with emotional depth and development?*
 - _____ Does the romantic relationship reach a satisfying and logical conclusion?*
- *(use synopsis, especially if the h/h do not meet in the first 30 pages)

COMMENTS:

8. PLOT:

Possible score 20 _____

- _____ Is the story line fresh and unique, or does the author successfully revitalize a traditional plot?
- _____ Do the chapters begin and end with hooks that make you want to turn the page?
- _____ Are subplots smoothly and logically interwoven with the romance or primary plot?
- _____ Is there a balance of internal and external conflict throughout the plot?

Comments:

9. MECHANICS:

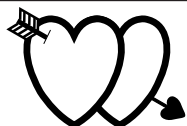
Possible score 10 _____

- _____ Is the manuscript reasonably free of spelling and grammatical errors?
- _____ Is the manuscript formatted according to publishing industry standards?

Comments:

10. OVERALL IMPRESSION: (Expand on strengths or areas of improvement.)

Please continue on back if necessary.



THE CONNectiions AWARD:

Special award for best meeting between hero & heroine.

(Judges, do NOT add this score to your total. It is a separate award section)

- _____ Is the first meeting between the hero and heroine exciting/electric/intriguing?
- _____ Is there a promise of romance and a fulfilling relationship to come?
- _____ Do you look forward to following the hero & heroine on their romantic journey?
- _____ Are the hero and heroine three-dimensional enough to fulfill the potential of the plot?

Comments:

TOTAL CONNectiion Score (possible score 20) _____

Judge signature (optional): _____

_____ Published in romance

_____ Published, other

_____ RWA Pro

_____ Award winning

_____ Unpublished

OVERALL IMPRESSION/OTHER COMMENTS:

[illegible]