

Rubric for the Golden Shovel Assignment

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Focus	The entire piece is related to the topic and allows the reader to understand much more about the character's perspective.	Most of the piece is related to the topic. The story wanders off at one point, but the reader can still learn something about the character's perspective.	Some of the piece is related to the topic, but a reader does not learn much about the character's perspective.	No attempt has been made to relate the piece to the topic.
Creativity	The piece contains many creative details and descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has really used imagination.	The piece contains a few creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has used imagination.	The piece contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the story. The author has tried to use imagination.	There is little evidence of creativity in the piece. The author does not seem to have used much imagination.
Character	The character from the poem is clearly developed. Most readers could describe the character accurately.	The character from the poem is developed. Most readers would have some idea of what the character is like.	The character from the poem is shown in vague or unclear details. The reader knows very little about the character.	It is hard to tell anything special about the character from the poem.
Character's Voice	The character seems to be writing from personal knowledge or experience. The language matches his or her personality and the audience and purpose.	The character seems to draw on personal knowledge or experience, but at times, the language does not match his or her personality or the audience and purpose.	The character relates some personal knowledge or experience, but the language does not match the character's personality or the audience and purpose.	The character seems blank or distant. The ideas and the way they are expressed seem to belong to someone else.