



Writers Helping Writers

Florida Writers Association
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FloridaWriters.net

The Royal Palm Literary Awards competition is a service of the Florida Writers Association established to recognize excellence in members' published and unpublished works while providing objective and constructive written assessments for all entrants.



What 2017 entrants said...

I need to thank you and your colleagues at the FWA for the wonderful, amazing, encouraging, and super-duper rubrics. I'm sure you've heard this before, and with all manner of superlatives, but I feel I must join the chorus. For a novice such as myself these are simply priceless and I look forward to the weeks and months I'll spend incorporating or otherwise paying heed to what has been communicated to me by strangers of good will. I can't thank them, or you, enough. I'll be back with more entries for next year's competition.

—Yusuf DeLorenzo



The rubrics are a wonderful idea. Your contest is the best judged and the most competitive I've ever heard-tell of. Measurable criteria are the way to go in any contest, and you folks have nailed it. Please pass the word (but anonymously) to the judges that "they done good" (and not to judge my evaluation comment!).

—Susan Lindsley



Thank you so much for everything you did this year and continue to do to make RPLA such a wonderful program. As a participant, I loved the feedback from the judges on my entries. It helped me grow as a writer. As a winner, I finally got the confidence I needed to continue

working on that dusty manuscript that's been hidden for two years. As a judge, I practiced analyzing writing for specific characteristics and that helped me improve my own work. I am sure you spent and still spend many, many hours coordinating this program. It is making a huge difference for so many writers, including me.

—Arielle Haughee



The critiques are very helpful. They inspire me to improve my writing, and I am eager to revise my stories according to the judges' comments. Thank you all!

—Loren Leith



I did not anticipate the analysis I received. This is another feather in FWA's cap. Getting real constructive feedback. Wow! Thank you so much. You bet I'll submit in 2018.

—Yves Masson



Just wanted to say “Thank you” for the rubrics. I certainly understand and appreciate the effort the judges put into the task. Please convey my appreciation to them. I felt my evaluations were fair, intelligent and helpful.

—Phyllis McKinley



The feedback is invaluable for not only the judged book, but for future ones.

—Patrick L. Hemping



As always, the best part about entering RPLA is the feedback. Each judge offers insight I value. Everything helps me to improve, improve, improve! I have my award for *Parade of Horribles* sitting on my shelf. So nice to get a pat on the back. We all know how challenging this writer's life can be, but also how much fun. Appreciate all of your hard work!

—Rhett DeVane



I received my rubrics and would love it if you could thank the final judge. It takes dedication and time to read an entire novel by an unknown author. The comments gave me confidence that maybe I am a real writer. Ha. Thank you!

—Kimberlee Esselstrom

P.S. I also wanted to say that ALL of the judges' comments were helpful on all of my entries. We strive for perfect scores but when a manuscript doesn't make the cut it's important to get an understanding of why. I've made valuable changes and improvements because of the rubrics.



I received the rubrics for my romance novel entry and want to say thank you. It was extremely helpful to see how the judges judged the manuscript and I appreciate their candor and the honest critics of my work. It is encouraging to see what they liked and helpful to see where I need to work harder. This is the first time I've entered anything into any writing competition, but, with the helpful suggestions, maybe it won't be the last time. Thank you.

—Sandie Cuppett

