

Regional Judging: Grades 3–5 Student Rubric

Purpose: To guide students in writing creative, clear, and agriculture-connected stories.

Category	1 – Needs Work	2 – Developing	3 – Strong	Score
Connection to Agriculture	Story has little or no connection to agriculture or contains inaccuracies.	Some agricultural ideas appear but may be unclear or incomplete.	Clear, accurate, and meaningful connection to agriculture.	
Main Idea & Details	Story is confusing or off-topic.	Main idea is somewhat clear with a few supporting details.	Story has a clear main idea with interesting and well-developed details.	
Structure & Flow	Hard to follow; missing beginning or ending.	Some structure but may jump around.	Clear beginning, middle, and end; easy to follow.	
Creativity & Voice	Little imagination or personal touch.	Some creative ideas; voice is emerging.	Original, expressive, and engaging story.	
Clarity & Conventions	Frequent errors make story hard to read.	Some errors but meaning is clear.	Easy to read; spelling and punctuation mostly correct.	

Total: /15 points

Tip: The best stories help readers imagine how agriculture connects to our everyday lives through food, nature, and community!