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|  | **Criteria** | **Level 1** | **Level 2** | **Level 3** | **Level 4** |
| **Knowledge** | **Familiarity with story shown through selection of textual references** | infrequent to occasional references, many inaccuracies, from a limited range | occasional references, some may be vague or inaccurate, from a narrower range | consistently used, accurate references, some may be general; from a range | consistently used, accurate, and specific references; wide ranging |
| **Thinking** | **Ability to construct a thoughtful theme (universal statement about life)**  **Ability to explain compelling evidence to advance the theme (staying focussed on developing theme)** | Theme is hinted at but not expressly identified (more topic or concept than complete idea)  Little explanation of evidence; errors in interpretation | Theme is loosely identified and vague in nature  Some explanation of evidence; reasoning may be vague, superficial, or incompletely articulated | Theme is consistent with story but may be straightforward/obvious in nature  Explanations of evidence are clear and well developed; reasoning is sound | Theme is focussed, thoughtful and interesting  Explanations leverage evidence to articulate keen analysis; reasoning is insightful (CER used to best advantage) |
| **Communication** | **Paragraphs are organized and flow smoothly**  **Sentences are grammatically correct** | Ability to organize paragraphs effectively is developing; flow is hampered by weak organization  Frequency of errors reflect a weak grasp of correct sentence structure | Some organization of paragraphs; ideas sometimes flow  There maybe 1-2 sentence structure errors but they do not hinder meaning | Solid organization of paragraphs; ideas flow well  Sentences are grammatically correct; no sentence structure errors (sf, cs, ros) | Effective organization of paragraphs; ideas flow smoothly  Sentence variety engages reader; sentences are grammatically correct and no sentence structure errors (sf, cs, ros) |
| **Application** | **Making a connection between chosen story and outside text / experience / context** | Connection is tenuous or vague; little detail or depth of exploration | Connection is general – may have good potential but need further exploration; more detail needed | Connection is logical though may be obvious; similarities and differences explored with some detail | Connection is interesting and focussed; similarities and differences are explored thoughtfully and in detail |