

#### ***D. ORAL INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE***

Oral Interpretation of Literature is defined as an effective reading using the voice. As such the reader will be out of sight of the judges, either behind them, or behind a screen, in order to insure that he/she is being judged on use of voice only.

The material chosen for Oral Interpretation come from a critically recognized published work of literature drawn from any literary genre. Participants are expected to bring a copy of the published script to the tournament. Students should choose pieces that allow them to demonstrate a clear sense of ownership of the reading.

At the autumn tournament, Oral Interpretations will be of a light nature and selections for the spring will be serious. (This is in contrast to the Duet Acting pieces.)

The use of unaccented English will not be a criterion for judging unless the pronunciation and accent interfere with intelligibility. Judges should also be aware of their own preconceived ideas of how a piece should be performed.

Readings are not to exceed seven minutes, including an appropriate introduction mentioning the title of the work and the name of the author. Contestants should realize that readings in auditoriums usually take longer than in smaller rooms and should plan accordingly. Contestants may choose what medium, be it paper or electronic, they read from.

Readings of under five or over seven minutes and/or failure to comply with any of the above will result in the deduction of penalty points. In practice, when speakers hear the timer's word "Stop!", they should finish their sentence and then stop immediately; they will not then be penalized.

## ***CRITIQUE SHEET for ORAL INTERPRETATION OF LITERATURE***

Oral Interpretation is defined as an effective reading using the voice. As such, the reader will be out of sight of the judges, either behind them, or behind a screen, in order to ensure that he/she is being judged on use of voice only.

The materials chosen for Oral Interpretation come from a critically recognized published work of literature drawn from any literary genre. Participants are expected to bring a copy of the published script to the tournament. Students are advised to choose pieces that allow them to demonstrate a clear sense of ownership of the reading. The nature of the reading will be serious in the fall tournament and light in the spring. Contestants may choose what medium, be it paper or electronic, they read from.

The whole piece appears to be a “marriage” where the student has actively chosen a piece that allows him/her to demonstrate a clear sense of ownership over the reading.

Readings should not exceed seven minutes, including an appropriate introduction that mentions the title of the work and the name of the author. Readings of less than five or more than seven minutes in length and/or failure to comply with any of the above will have ten points deducted from each judge’s score. In practice, when speakers hear the timer’s word “STOP!”, they should finish their sentence and then stop immediately; they will not be penalized. For grading instructions, see Handbook.

*\*\*Judges should not make the use of unaccented English a criterion in judging any event unless the pronunciation and accent interfere with intelligibility.* Judges should also take care that their own preconceived ideas of how a piece should be performed/delivered does not influence their critique\*\*

*Please see other page for Grading Scheme. This grading scheme contains descriptors that may be used as a starting point for judgments. You may underline or highlight phrases that apply to the actors as part of the critique; under each category, descriptors are arranged in various criteria. Please add comments on any other relevant aspects and to focus participants on specific aspects of their piece.*

Title/Author of Piece:

Judge’s general comments on piece:

General Comments / Areas for improvement:

**ORAL INTERPRETATION - GRADING SCHEME:**

*The following is a grading scheme used to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Oral Interpretation. There are ten criteria with three choices in each. Write one number for each criterion ("5" being the best) for an overall possible score of 50.*

*Reading*

5 **Clarity:** each word can be clearly heard with crystal precision  
 3 the reading is distinct and clear  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 parts were hard to hear/follow

5 **Voice:** variations of pitch, tone and volume enhance the rendering and reveal layers of meaning  
 3 reasonable variation in use of pitch, tone and volume - appropriate most of the time  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 needs more variation in voice modulation or overly relies on volume for dramatic effect

5 **Pacing:** enjoyably effective use of pause, rhythm and varied speed that is dynamic  
 3 variation in use of pauses, rhythm, speed that works  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 some variation in pacing – more would better sustain audience's attention

5 **Presence:** confident and poised in reading, a genuine sense of enjoying the exercise  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 confident, not uncomfortable  
 1 may be nervous but controlling it

*Rendering of Text*

5 **Characterisation:** creates lively authentically present narrative and/or characters  
 3 creates a narrative voice and/or characters  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 reads without developing narrative and/or character

5 **Understanding:** descriptions of concepts and events are vividly clear, illuminating nuances  
 3 shows solid understanding of what is being described with attempts at imaginative realization  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 shows limited understanding of what is being described

5 **Atmosphere:** creates and sustains a tangible and encompassing atmosphere  
 3 shows awareness of emotional content with subtleties  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 shows little variation in emotional content

*Effectiveness*

5 **Mood and Emotion:** reading evokes and sustains an empathetic emotional response in listener  
 3 reading evokes an emotional response throughout the piece  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 reading evokes a patchy response and is not always clear

5 **Interpretation:** is sustained, vivid and remarkable  
 3 the interpretation is clear and vivid  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 limited interpretation of text

5 **Overall Effectiveness:** the match of vocalization and piece conveys excellence  
 3 vocalization and piece as a whole fit comfortably  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 vocalization and the chosen piece either do not match or only match in parts

*Total (out of 50)*

Judge's Name:

Judge's Signature:

(15 points deducted if under FIVE minutes or over SEVEN minutes)