

Oral Reading Contest Rules

Rules

- ❖ The reading may be taken from any poem, part of a play, book or magazine
- ❖ Prior to the contest, contestants are to provide the name of the author of the text to the contest chairperson.
- ❖ The contestants shall read from one continuous text, which may be directly edited by deletions.
- ❖ The contestant may introduce the text to the audience in no more than 30 seconds and the introduction is included in the timing.
- ❖ Contestants will speak for 3-4 minutes including any introduction. A green light is to be shown at 3 minutes, an amber light at 3 minutes 30 seconds and a red light at 4 minutes, remaining on until the last word spoken by the contestant. Contestants speaking for less than 2 minutes 30 seconds or more than 4 minutes 30 seconds or using more than 30 seconds introducing their text will be disqualified.

Judges Marking Criteria

Introduction of text

- ❖ A maximum of 5 points. The introduction should set the scene and put the reading into context for the audience.

Selection of text

- ❖ A maximum of 10 points for suitability of text for the audience and reader, understanding of the authors intention; and scope of text for vocal variety
- ❖ A maximum of 10 points for structure and shape of passage (including editing) to provide an opening, body and conclusion.

Delivery

- ❖ A maximum of 10 points for fluency and word recognition, phrasing to convey sense and interpretation.
- ❖ A maximum of 25 points for handling of text, including eye contact and audience rapport.

Voice

- ❖ A maximum of 10 points for audibility, resonance and articulation.
- ❖ A maximum of 20 points for interpretation and vocal variety.

Handy Hints

- ❖ Find a text that allows scope for vocal variety, e.g. a passage from a book that involves two characters speaking without the necessity of mimicry or an attempt at different dialects.
- ❖ Choose relatively simple text - there is not enough time to introduce lots of characters and ideas.
- ❖ While editing is allowed, it should be done in such a way that the text flows as one passage.
- ❖ While the contestant should be familiar with the passage, it should not be recited from memory. This is a reading contest and therefore it is necessary to be seen to be reading!
- ❖ The handling of the text, including any page turning if necessary, should be done without interfering with the flow of words, allowing the reader to use eye contact to gain rapport with the audience.