



POETRY READING BALLOT

Student Name _____ Round _____ Section _____
 Student Code / School _____ Judge Name / Affiliation _____
 Topic _____ Length of Speech _____

Please comment on the following areas using the questions as guides. See reverse for OSAA rules.

Introduction

- Were the titles and authors of each poem appropriately identified?
- Was an appropriate mood created?

Selection

- Did the presentation include at least three poems (or cuttings from three poems)?
- Was there a clear theme that unified the poems presented?
- Did the speaker provide smooth verbal transitions between poems?

Presentation

- Did the interpreter effectively use facial expressions, gestures and vocal inflection to enhance the interpretation?
- Was the delivery consistent with the mood intended by the author(s)?

Overall Effectiveness

- What was the total effect of the presentation upon you, the critic, as compared to other speakers in the round?

CIRCLE THE NUMBER BELOW THAT INDICATES THE RATING OF THIS SPEAKER. TIES ARE PERMITTED.

EXCELLENT					GOOD					FAIR									
50	49	48	47	46	45	44	43	42	41	40	39	38	37	36	35	34	33	32	31

RANK THE SPEAKER COMPARED TO THE OTHER SPEAKERS. NO TIES ARE PERMITTED.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

OSAA POETRY READING RULES

1. **Communication among judges during the round.** Judges must make independent decisions. Judges shall not discuss decisions with other judges prior to turning in ballots. Timekeepers may share the length of a given speech only. If questions arise regarding the rules or conduct of an event, judges shall ask at Speech State Championships headquarters.
2. **Theme.** Contestants are to choose poems, which are related to and organized around a central theme.

Example of Theme. A central or unifying theme may be a poet, statesman, philanthropist, an idea, a philosophy, nature, an element of nature, a community, trees, death, etc. For example, using the theme of love, cuttings may be taken from Robert Burns' "Mary Morrison", William Wordsworth's "She Was a Phantom of Delight", and Lord Byron's "When We Two Parted", or using the theme of nature's changing seasons; cuttings might be taken from Robert Bridges' "London Snow", Swinburne's "Autumn in Cornwall", and Robert Frost's "Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening". Humorous poetry may be used.
3. **Poems.** No fewer than three poems or cuttings from three poems are to be used, and at least three poems are to be not less than eight lines. Judges should check the manuscripts to enforce this rule.
4. **Introductions.** Each poem should be appropriately introduced in order to give setting (if necessary), to relate it to the central theme, and to establish the proper mood for the audience. Introductions should be memorized or delivered extemporaneously.
5. **Length.** Contestants are allowed a speaking time of no more than eight minutes with 30 seconds of grace. This includes the introduction, poetry reading, and necessary transitions.
 - a) Time signals may be given at the speaker's request; however, presentation within the time length is ultimately the responsibility of the speaker.
 - b) If laughter delays the speaker, the timekeeper shall make allowance by stopping the watch at the beginning and starting it at the end of each interruption.
 - c) Contestants who violate the time limit may receive a lower rank. No contestant may be penalized if a stopwatch was not used for timing.
6. **Presentation.** Students must read from a manuscript or from the printed page. Continued practice during the time of preparation may result in memorization of some passages. The aim of the reader, however, should not be complete memorization. Rather frequent references must be made to the manuscript during presentation of the materials. While standing primarily in one place, contestants may use limited gestures and facial, verbal and vocal expression.
7. **Materials - Sources.** Contestants are urged to select material within their grasp, their ability to understand and to interpret, but materials, which are good literature. Anthologies of modern poetry, British or American, as well as high school literature books should prove helpful. Original work of the student is encouraged.
8. **Changing Readings.** Poetry prepared for and used at the District Tournament must also be used at the Speech State Championships.