

# Science & Fine Arts Fair

## Interpretive Reading & Declamations

### Purpose

- The purpose of interpretive reading is to develop the skill of interpreting prose or poetry, and deliver it to an audience through oral reading.
- The purpose of a declamation is to develop the skill of interpreting prose or poetry, and deliver it to an audience without the use of the written work.

### Definition

- Interpretive Reading/Declamations should enable the audience to appreciate a literary selection.

### Aim

- The speaker should, through careful selection of material and skillful presentation, help the listener clearly understand, feel, and enjoy the message, imagery, and literary beauty of a piece of prose or poetry.

### Rules

- Original material is acceptable, but not necessary.
- More than one selection may be used.
- An introduction explaining the selection is required, but transitions are optional.
- Both introduction and transitions must be memorized
- An interpretive reading selection must be read, while a declamation must be memorized
- No costumes, props, or prompters may be used.
- The time limit for both categories is three to five minutes.
- A selection of Interpretive Reading must be mounted on construction paper.
- The student will declare on the judging form whether the selection is Interpretive Reading or Declamation.

### Suggestions

- Choose prose or poetry which has universal appeal, vivid language, or listener interest. In other words the selection should "say something" to the reader.
- The material may be edited, being aware of the unity, integrity, feel, characterization, and sound of the selection.
- If multiple selections from short stories, novels, drama, essays, or poetry are used, transitions may help to create a unifying theme or emotion.
- Introductions must be used to introduce the selections and should increase listener understanding and appreciation.
- The delivery of the reader should enable the listener to better understand, feel, and enjoy the selection.
- Delivery should include meaningful variations in pitch, loudness, and tone of voice.
- Delivery should skillfully make use of pace, cadence, rhythm, and rhyme.
- Delivery also includes the appropriate use of facial expression, gestures, eye contact, and bodily movement.
- Whether in prose or poetry, the reader should strive to create or recreate a scene, emotion, or feeling. To achieve this, poetry should be read by sentence and thought-group, rather than by line.