

Judge Instructions – *JR Poetry Interpretation*

Description of Event

The competitor has a maximum of 10 minutes to present a cutting of a published poem or poems. The selection(s) may be humorous or dramatic in nature. The competitor may use any type of poetry (rhyming, free verse, etc.) Content shall not contradict biblical principles but does not have to be spiritual in nature. Use of a forensic notebook is required. A maximum of 60 seconds is permitted toward the beginning of the presentation for original words required to introduce the piece. Title(s) and author(s) must be clearly stated in this memorized introduction presented with the forensic notebook closed. A maximum of 45 seconds for a teaser is permitted before the introduction. Movement is restricted to center stage, with presentation space limited to a square no larger than one step in any direction from the center starting position.

Things to Look for in a Good Presentation

The competitor should select and arrange a well-written poem or a program of poems with literary merit and bring the poetry to life for the audience. The presentation should develop a clear storyline or theme. It should come to a satisfying and conclusive end. The competitor should use distinct postures, gestures, movements, and voices to vividly portray the stages of emotion of each character or poem. The competitor should employ off-stage focus during character dialogue, if included in the literature. The introduction and/or teaser should grab the attention of the audience and create interest in the rest of the presentation. The use of the forensic notebook should be effortless and natural.

PLEASE NOTE:

In the Junior Division, the speakers are not competing against each other. The purpose of this division is for personal growth and learning. The age of the competitors (5 - 8) begs for positive feedback and encouragement with a small amount of constructive criticism. No points or ranks should be given.