

Interpretation *(Dramatic & Humorous)*



The art of interpretation is regarded as recreating characters in the story presented and making them seem living and real to the audience.

A selection for interpretation must be a cutting from a single literary work: one novel, or one short story, or one play, or one or more poems (from the same published volume). Monologues are acceptable in Dramatic or Humorous Interpretation. The selection should be judged for its appropriateness as contest material and its suitability to the particular contestant(s) using it. The use of good literature should be noted favorably and a selection devoid of literary merit graded lowest.

Narrative, if included, should be vivid and animated so as to be an interesting and integral part of the story rather than just "filler" between portions of dialogue.

Contestants are evaluated on poise, quality and use of voice, inflections, emphasis, pronunciation, enunciation, physical expression, and especially the ability to interpret characters correctly and consistently.

The final test of good interpretation is the ability to use all these factors so successfully and unobtrusively that the hearer forgets that this is a contest and in a created atmosphere is carried away to the time and place of the story being unfolded.

Rules

1. Divisions. Separate contests shall be conducted in Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation, each presented as **memorized selections** and without the use of physical objects or costume. Presentation shall not exceed 10 minutes.
2. Selections. Selections used in these contests shall be cuttings from published, printed novels, short stories, plays or poetry. Recorded material that is not printed and published is prohibited. Adaptations may be for purpose of continuity only. During the presentation the contestant/team must name the author and the book or magazine from which the cutting was made.
3. Focus: In Dramatic and Humorous Interpretation use of focal points and/or direct contact with the audience should be determined by the requirements of the literature being interpreted.
4. Source: A cutting must be a single work of literature: one short story or one play or one novel or on or more poems. The original published source (or if unavailable a microfilm or microfiche copy) of any selection used in Dramatic or Humorous must be immediately available at the tournament as well as a complete script of the cutting used.
5. A complete script of the cutting would include:
 - a) A photocopy of every page from which any line of the cutting is taken; pages are to be in the order in which they are performed.
 - b) All words used from the script should be highlighted. (any words/lines not used should be left unmarked.)
 - c) Any word changes and/or additions must be indicated clearly in ink.

Caution. It shall be the affirmative duty of each coach and each student entered in NFL Interpretation contests to determine absolutely that the cutting being performed meets NFL rules.

6. Re-Use. A student may not use a cutting from **a work of literature** that student used in NFL district or NFL national competition in any previous contest year. A student entered in two events may not use the same selection of literature in both events.