

Speech - POETRY

- This category is for poetry written by a well-known author.
- Each school may enter no more than 3 students per grade in 3rd – 8th grades.
- Presentations are from the approved list of poems which is available in the appendix of this manual, or on the festival website.
- All presentations must be memorized (notes and prompts are not permitted).
- **Participants shall provide one copy of their speech to the judges.**
- **All presentations must begin with an introduction. The student should give the title and some background information regarding their selection.**
- Students should communicate the message of their selection through their vocal and facial expressions, being sure to include speech techniques described on the judging sheet.
- Bodily movements and gestures are allowed, but not required, and must not be overdone.
- The presentation may not be dramatized.
- Costumes and props are not allowed.
- Eye contact should be with the audience, not the judges.
- Picture taking or video recorders are not permitted during the student's presentation.

Speech Poetry Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

- **Selection**
 - Appropriate—the selected portion should provide adequate opportunity for the actor to explore and effectively interpret the words and actions of multiple characters in a range of settings, appropriate for this festival; appropriate level of difficulty. Scripture portion used is substantial enough for full setting, character, and story development.
 - Originality – use of inventive and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

- **Communication**
 - Posture – use of whole body to enhance character.
 - Expression – nonverbal communication (i.e. facial expressions, gestures, posture) that enhances mood of the presentation.
 - Character development – a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
 - Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
 - Vocal clarity – appropriate volume; proper pronunciation of words with effective tone and inflection.
 - Memorization—word perfect recitation of the selected scripture portion

- **Presentation/Technique**
 - Timing/dialogue – understanding and excellent execution of the pacing of the scene and the delivery of the lines
 - Delivery – strong delivery of lines using proper pronunciation of words to help develop an effective mood and tone
 - Actor’s focus – to whom or where is the actor speaking? Ability to remain “in character”; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor, transitions should be clear, distinctive and creative.
 - Characterization – believable representation of human motives, thoughts, actions and emotions.
 - Action – natural movement of the actor(s) that is both original and creative enhancing the idea of the presentation.
 - Blocking – proper staging; movement with purpose; staging that best allows full view of actor’s face and body placement with appropriate spacing to provide a clean and uncluttered stage picture.

- **Effectiveness**
 - Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
 - Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
 - Interpretation – a conclusive voice stating the overall message.
 - Understandable concept – the combination of scripture, communication, presentation/technique, and effectiveness in attaining a response.