

Drama Division Guidelines for Readers Theater

Please note: All participants are required to read the General Information and General Rules.

Registrants in the Drama Division may submit entries in the following categories:

- Drama Solo
- Drama Ensemble, Small or Large
- Human Video Ensemble, Small or Large
- Musical Theater, Group or Solo
- Readers Theater, Group

Readers Theater

1. An entry in Readers Theater is for the art of communicating a story through a dramatic presentation in which the lines are read, and the story is communicated by oral expressions and vocal characterization rather than costumes or blocking.
2. An open script must be used either in hand or on a lectern.
3. An entry in Readers Theater may be comprised by two to ten eligible students.
4. A time limit of 5 minutes is allowed for each entry. There are 90 seconds for setup and 90 seconds for tear down.
5. Characterization through vocal expression is foundational to the genre. Actors must not just read the script but should interpret the character's words through effective oral expression and vocal inflection.
6. Only vocal sound effects produced by actor vocalizations are allowed. No recorded or electronic sound effects are allowed. Neither soundtracks nor live background music is allowed.
7. Chairs are provided for the readers/actors. Standing on chairs is not allowed.
8. Costumes, costume makeup, props, or blocking of any kind are not allowed.

Readers Theater Evaluation Criteria

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

- **Selection**
 - o Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
 - o Appropriate—appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
 - o Originality – strong script adaptation; use of inventive and creative ideas.
- **Communication**
 - o Character development – through oral expression a full realization of who the character(s) become(s) throughout the presentation.
 - o Expression – nonverbal communication (i.e., facial expressions, gestures, posture) that enhances the mood and message of the presentation.
 - o Imagery – images creatively suggested through oral expression, vocal inflection, texture, and delivery; ability to draw the audience into an imagination space.
 - o Stage presence – command of seating/presentation area; control, confidence, and comfort. Vocal clarity – appropriate volume; proper pronunciation with effective tone and inflection; interesting experimentation with and interpretation of language.
- **Presentation and Technique**
 - o Actor's focus – actors should not directly or physically interact with one another other than by voice; actors should demonstrate the ability to remain in character and deliver lines; if multiple characters are being played by a single actor, transitions should be clear, distinctive, and creative.
 - o Blocking – there can be no conventional full-body blocking; actors must deliver from a seated or standing position using only upper-body blocking. Simple actor movement may be creatively used for character or scene transitions.
 - o Characterization – believable representation of human motives, thoughts, actions, and emotions using only oral expression and vocal texture.
 - o Delivery – strong and interesting delivery of lines to help develop an effective pace, mood, and tone of the presentation.
 - o Sound effects – use of actor vocalization to creatively produce sound effects to enhance the effective telling of the story.
 - o Timing/dialogue – understanding and excellent execution of the pace of the scene and the delivery of the lines.
- **Overall Effectiveness**
 - o Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
 - o Interpretation – a conclusive voice stating the overall message.
 - o Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
 - o Understandable concept – the combination of script selection, communication, presentation and technique, and effectiveness in telling a story.