

Section 1474: STORYTELLING

(a) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) *Contestants.* Students in the second and third grades who are eligible under Section 1405 may enter this -contest.
- (2) *Divisions.* This contest will consist of one division unless the district executive committee approves separate divisions for each grade.
- (3) *Individual Competition.* Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants per division in the district meet.
- (4) *Team Competition.* There is no team competition in Storytelling.

(b) NATURE OF THE CONTEST.

- (1) *Summary.* To tell a story, the participant must develop skills in listening, thinking and speaking. This contest also allows for the development of creative expression. For practice, teachers can use stories from any good children's books or magazines.
- (2) *Contest Format.* Contestants shall listen to a storyteller read a brief story (between 600 and 1100 words long) only once, and then retell that story in their own words before a judge or judges. Contestants may not use costumes or props in the contest.
- (3) *Tests.* Two stories will be provided, one to be used in the preliminary round and one to be used in the -final round. The League will make available one pair of stories for invitational meets, one pair for fall/winter district meets, and one pair for spring district meets.

(c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

(1) *Personnel.*

- (A) *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director. The contest director may be the coach of a participating student.
- (B) *Storyteller.* If the contest director is not the coach of a participating student, the contest director may serve as the storyteller or may appoint a qualified person to act in this capacity. The storyteller should be given the story well in advance of the contest. The contest may also be administered by playing a recording of the test material prepared by the contest director in advance of the contest. The League does not provide this recording. The storyteller may select which story provided by the League office will be used for the preliminary round and which will be used for the final round. The storyteller may not be the coach of a participating student.
- (C) *Monitors (optional).* The monitors may be a coach of a participating student. The monitor's duty is to make certain that contestants work quietly and independently before and after their turn.
- (D) *Judges (Graders).* The contest director may recruit one judge or an odd-numbered panel of judges for each section. Judges may not be coaches of participating students. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.

(2) *Materials.*

- (A) *Provided by UIL.* The following materials will be provided to schools submitting the appropriate requisitions. See Section 1408 (c) for the dates when invitational materials will be available. See Section 1408 (e) for the dates when district materials will be available.
  - (i) Evaluation sheets for 30 contestants in each packet.
  - (ii) Two printed stories, one to be used in the preliminary round and one in the final round.
  - (iii) Three Judges' Ballots.
  - (iv) One Contest Director's Ranking Sheet for a panel of judges.
  - (v) Contest rosters.
- (B) *Provided by the Host School.* Blank paper and pencil (optional) for use in the waiting area.

- (C) *Other*. No other materials or notes may be used in the contest.
- (3) *Time Allotted for Contest*. There is no minimum or maximum limit on the presentation.
- (4) *Creating Sections*. A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter storytelling, they must be divided into sections using the guidelines in Section 1003. Districts may create smaller sections when space permits. A separate room is needed for each preliminary section. Winners from the preliminary rounds will compete in a final round using the guidelines in Section 1003.
- (d) **CONDUCTING THE CONTEST.**
- (1) *Clear Room*. Spectators and coaches not assigned a specific duty in administering the contest should be dismissed from the storytelling room before the story is read.
- (2) *Speaker Order*. Contestants may be assigned to sections and speaker order may be established prior to the day of the meet. If the contest director prefers, the contestants in each preliminary section may draw for speaker order just before the contest begins.
- (3) *Telling the Story*. Assemble contestants in a room separate from the room or rooms in which they will retell the story. The storyteller shall read the story only once to the contestants. Admit the first contestant in each preliminary section to the contest rooms to tell the story. When the first contestant has finished, admit the second one, and so on until all the contestants in each preliminary section have told their stories.
- (4) *No Prompting*. Contestants may not receive prompting of the story plot or details. Audiences are permitted to hear contestants tell their stories.
- (e) **JUDGING.**
- (1) *Briefing Judges*. The judges should be instructed to evaluate all the contestants. If possible, judges should not hear the same students in both preliminary and final rounds. The judges shall not be permitted to hear the story as it is told to the contestants. Judges will be provided a list of key plot and character elements from the story.
- (2) *Criteria*. Judges will use an evaluation sheet provided by the League defining the criteria including, but not limited to, ability of the contestant to command attention, originality, facial expressions, vocal variety, characterization, eye contact, gestures, posture, articulation and enthusiasm. Contestants must include at least one key element of the story in their presentations, and an absence of at least one key story element in the presentation should be considered by the judge when ranking contestants. The judge's decisions on this matter shall be final.
- (3) *Ranking*. Ranks shall be determined through sixth place by the director. See Section 1003. If a panel of judges is used, the contest director must tabulate all judges' ranks to determine places. See Section 1003 (b).
- (4) *Ties*. There can be no ties in this competition. Ties are to be broken in accordance with Section 1003 (b).
- (5) *Points*. Points are awarded through sixth place according to Section 1408 (i).
- (f) **VERIFICATION PERIOD.** If a panel of judges is used, a verification period should be provided, during which unofficial results should be posted. Coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to verify that tabulation of rankings is correct. The rankings given by judges are not subject to question.
- (g) **OFFICIAL RESULTS.** The director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.