

Section 1454: ONE-ACT PLAY

(a) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) *Contestants.* Students in the seventh and eighth grades who are eligible under Section 1400 may enter this contest. Sixth graders who are eligible under Section 1405 may participate in the contest if they are on the same campus as the seventh and eighth grade. Participants must be full-time students in grades six, seven or eight at the school they represent.
- (2) *Divisions.* This contest consists of one division.

(b) NATURE OF THE CONTEST.

- (1) *Summary.* Students will have the opportunity to work in all aspects of the production of a 40-minute play. During the production of the play they will be able to:
 - (A) satisfy the competitive, artistic spirit with friendly rivalry among schools, emphasizing high quality performance in this creative art;
 - (B) foster appreciation of good acting, good directing and good drama;
 - (C) promote interest in that art form most readily usable in leisure time during adult life;
 - (D) learn to lose or win graciously, accepting in good sportsmanship the judge's decision and criticism with a view to improve future productions; and
 - (E) increase the number of schools that have adopted theatre arts as an academic subject in school curricula.
 - (2) *Contest Format.* Schools will produce a play in strict accordance to the rules and regulations in the current *One-Act Play Handbook* and Sections 1033 and 1034, with the following exceptions:
 - (A) All deadlines and schedules are to be determined by the district executive committee.
 - (B) Enrollment and Title Entry Cards are not required for junior high schools and will not be available from the League office.
 - (C) Directors for eighth grade and below do not have to be full-time employees of the school district as required by 1033 (b) (5) (A).
- (c) **OFFICIAL RESULTS.** The decision of the critic judge or judges is final. The winner of a junior high school one-act play contest shall not advance beyond the district level. Winners shall be ranked first, second and third.
- (d) **MATERIALS.** No printed materials are shipped for A+ One-Act Play contests. All instructions and forms are available for download from the UIL web site.

Section 1458: ORAL READING

(a) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) *Contestants.* Students in the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth grades who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest at the district meet. At the district meet, students in grades four through eight may enter no more than two speech events (Impromptu Speaking, Modern Oratory, Oral Reading.) Ninth grade students are limited by the requirements in Section 1000 (b).
- (2) *Divisions.* This contest will consist of two divisions 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 the Oral Reading contest.

(b) NATURE OF THE CONTEST.

- (1) *Summary.* Reading a text out loud serves four purposes: to analyze the text as a literary critic; to grow and to develop as a performer; to communicate a message to an audience; and to perform an artistic creation. All of these apply to the Oral Reading competition, which should be an extension of the classroom literary and language arts activities in poetry, short stories and children's fiction.
- (2) *Contest Format.*
 - (A) *Grades 4, 5 and 6.* Students shall have a maximum of six minutes to read a selection of poetry. Each

selection may be one poem, a cutting of a poem or a combination of poems. The same selection may be read in all rounds, but different selections are permissible. Selections must be published although the poet may be unknown or anonymous. The maximum time for each presentation is six minutes. There is no minimum time limit.

- (B) *Grades 7, 8 and 9.* Students shall have a maximum of six minutes to read selections of prose or poetry according to the following schedule.

2009-10 – poetry

2010-11 – prose

2011-12 – poetry

Each may be a single reading, a cutting from a longer selection or a combination of several selections. The same selection may be read in all rounds, but different selections are permissible. Selections must be published although the author may be unknown or anonymous. Prose readings may include sketches, fables, yarns, tales, science fiction, fantasy, mysteries, etc. Selections may be fiction or nonfiction. The maximum time for each presentation is six minutes. There is no minimum time limit.

(c) **PREPARATION.**

- (1) *Selecting Material.* The League office does not prescribe a list of poetry or prose selections for oral reading. However, the *A+ Handbook* contains helpful information about selecting appropriate material. Selections used by contestants should not offend the moral standards of the community nor be in bad taste. Plays or speeches may not be used as selections. Coaches should revise or reject all selections that in any way fail to meet these qualifications.
- (2) *Manuscripts.* Contestants must read their selection from a manuscript. It is suggested that the selection be held in a simple, dark-colored folder or small notebook that does not draw attention to itself.
- (3) *Introductions.* An introduction is not required but is permitted. The introduction must be delivered within the time limit. The main emphasis should be on the individual selection or selections of prose or poetry.
- (4) *Style and Delivery.* Contestants may not use costumes or props in the contest. Responsive use of the body (i.e. spontaneous changes in posture, gestures and place-to-place movement) is permissible. However, this active use of the body should:
 - (A) be appropriate to the demands of the selection;
 - (B) be a natural outgrowth from the literature to be performed; and
 - (C) be limited in scope.

The judge's opinion in this matter is final. Coaches are encouraged to prepare contestants for the fact that judges will apply their own opinions to what they value in style and delivery and these opinions will vary from judge to judge.

(d) **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) *Timekeeper.* A timekeeper should be provided for each contest to notify the contestant of the amount of time remaining from the total allotted time. The timekeeper should demonstrate to the contestant the type of time signals to be used. While the timekeeper may use either hand signals or timecards to indicate to the speaker the remaining time, time cards are a much preferred method of signal.
 - (C) *Judges.* 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. Prior to the contest, judges should become familiar with the oral reading evaluation sheet and the standards for style and delivery. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.

- (2) *Creating Sections.* A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter oral reading, 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.
- (3) *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) Three Judges' Ballots.
 - (iii) One Contest Director's Ranking Sheet for a panel of judges.
 - (iv) Two contest rosters.
 - (B) *Provided by the Student.* Literature to be performed in appropriate notebook.
 - (C) *Other.* No other materials may be used in the contest.
- (e) **CONDUCTING THE CONTEST.**
 - (1) *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.
 - (2) *No Cheering.* Audiences are permitted. Cheering should not be permitted during a contestant's presentation, and the contest director shall see that this rule is strictly enforced.
 - (3) *No Coaching.* No speaker may be coached or prompted in any manner during the delivery of the selection.
- (f) **JUDGING.**
 - (1) *Briefing Judges.* Prior to the contest, judges should become familiar with the oral reading evaluation sheet and the standards for style and delivery.
 - (2) *Criteria.* The evaluation sheet will include sections for commentary on understanding of the text, control of the performance, appropriateness of the selection, how well the performer prepared the audience and made the meaning of the selection clear as well as the quality of the performance including portrayal of the characters and how well the performer captured and communicated the essence of the literary work.
 - (3) *Length of Readings.* Students who go over the allotted six minutes shall be penalized one rank. For example, if the judges rank a student second who has gone over the time limit, that student shall be assigned third place and the student who was ranked third will be given second place. Because contestants of many ages participate in this activity, and because coaches are encouraged to choose selections of lengths which are suited to the ages of the contestants, there is no minimum time limit.
 - (4) *Questions.* Questions must be made to the contest director before the decision of the judges is announced as official. The decisions of the contest directors and/or meet officials on these matters are final.
 - (5) *Ranking the Contestants.* If a panel of judges is used, the contest director must tabulate all judges' ranks to determine places. See 1003 (b).
 - (6) *Ties.* There can be no ties in this competition. Ties shall be broken in accordance with Section 1003 (b).
 - (7) *Points.* Points are awarded through sixth place according to Section 1408 (i).
- (g) **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.
- (h) **OFFICIAL RESULTS.** The contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.