Updated November 2026

MACS
Elementary Fine Arts Festival
Speech Rules

ORAL INTERPRETATION OF POETRY

- A poem of your choosing
- At least 10 lines, no more than a page
- Must be memorized
- One typed copy or original text must be provided for the judge
- A short introduction of the performer and poem is appropriate: Name and Title of Piece
- Critique based on 1) memory, 2) projection, 3) clarity, 4) use of body/gestures, 5) facial expression, 6) build to a clear climax, 7) communication

ORAL COMMUNICATION/INTERPRETATION OF SCRIPTURE

- A passage of 5-15 verses
- From any book of the Bible, King James Version
- Must be memorized
- No copy necessary for the judge
- A short introduction of the performer and passage is appropriate: Name and Title of Piece
- Critique based on 1) memory, 2) projection, 3) clarity, 4) use of body/gestures, 5) facial expression, 6) build to a clear climax, 7) communication
- Examples:

- Matt. 4:1-11 (Satan tempting Jesus in the Wilderness)
- Matt. 6:9-13 (The Lord's Prayer)
- Gen. 6:7-18 (God commands Noah to build the Ark
- Ex. 32:1-14 (The Golden Calf)
- Judges 14:12-19 (Samson's Riddle is Double-crossed)
- 1 Sam. 16:4-13 (Samuel anoints David king)

ORAL READING

- An excerpt from any appropriate piece of children's literature, no more than 4 minutes long
- Should not be memorized
- No copy necessary for the judge
- Should be read with fluency and expression
- A short introduction of the performer and passage is appropriate: Name and Title of Piece
- Critique based on 1) projection, 2) clarity, 3) use of body/gestures, 4) facial expression, 5) build to a clear climax, 6) communication, 7) book control (If reading from a picture book, displaying the illustrations for the audience to see clearly. If reading from a chapter book, holding the book/ script in a manner that allows you to make eye contact with the audience and not have the book itself be distracting.)