



MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Interpretation of Children's Literature Response Ballot

Student Code _____ Student Name _____ Round I II III F

Title of Selection/Author: _____ Total Time: _____

Children's Literature: *A story appropriate for children delivered by a single student from a readily accessible, required text using no props or costumes. This event is designated as a "reading" event, therefore the student should strive to bring the material to life using vocal skills, facial expressions, body postures and gestures while movement around the presentation area should be minimal. Students are required to provide brief introductory remarks at some point, which must at least identify the title and author of the work.*

Time limit: *7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.*

During this performance the student demonstrates the following skills:	Excellent Throughout	Usually	Sometimes	Improve Here
ENGAGING NARRATION: creates interest and holds your attention. Invites you with their eyes to listen to their performance.				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses and varies facial expressions, gestures, and body language to enhance their performance.				
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS (if applicable): uses body, voices and gestures to create different, believable characters.				
FOCAL POINTS (if applicable): creates consistent and clear focal points that successfully create the illusion of the characters talking to each other (not to the audience).				
Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement this student could make to better their performance.				
Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of this student's performance.				

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge's Code _____ Judge's School: _____ Judge's Name: _____

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st. Check here if over 7:30

PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING Rank (1st-9th) _____

80-85 Fair 86-90 Good 91-95 Excellent 96-100 Superior Rating (100-80) _____



MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Declamation Response Ballot

Student Code _____ Student Name _____ Round I II III F

Title of Selection/Author: _____ Total Time: _____

Declamation: An event in which the student delivers a readily accessible spoken speech, from text or memory, which was originally written and given as a public address by another speaker. The student should effectively convey the message of the original speaker in a sincere and realistic style--imitation is not the goal. The presentation must include an introduction (author, place, and date of delivery) and any other relevant information about the author, oration or its historical significance at some point. (**Note:** Do not critique the content of the message presented, as it is not the work of the individual student. Evaluate the student's presentation regardless of your own opinion on the subject matter.)
Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.

During this performance the student demonstrates the following skills:	Excellent Throughout	Usually	Some- times	Improve Here
INTRODUCTION: provided substantial and compelling information that set up the speaker's text; was delivered in a conversational manner.				
AUTHENTICITY: Did the speaker make an honest connection to the content of the speech? Did the speaker make you feel that the words were their own?				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses eye contact and varies facial expressions, gestures, and body language to support their presentation.				
CONNECTION TO AUDIENCE: creates interest and holds your attention; appears poised, confident and comfortable during the presentation.				

Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement that this student could make to better their presentation.	
Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of this student's presentation.	

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge's Code _____ Judge's School: _____ Judge's Name: _____

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st. Check here if over 7:30

PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING Rank (1st-9th) _____

80-85 Fair 86-90 Good 91-95 Excellent 96-100 Superior Rating (100-80) _____



MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Demonstration Response Ballot

Student Code _____ Student Name _____ Round I II III F

Title of Selection/Author: _____ Total Time: _____

Demonstration: *The speaker will demonstrate something to the audience, which may include background and/or clarifying information. The presentation, on any topic, may be humorous or serious in nature, but the speaker should strive to provide an organized, step-by-step demonstration in a natural and realistic way. The speaker must refer to an object(s) or visual aid(s) during the presentation. No materials dangerous to the health or safety of the participant or the audience may be used. (i.e. dangerous chemicals, live animals, laser pointers.) Materials are not to be passed around the room to audience members or to the judge(s) before or during the demonstration. These materials must be transportable by the individual student only. The student may deliver the demonstration from memory or from notes.*

Time limit, including set up: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.

During this performance the student demonstrates the following skills:	Excellent Throughout	Usually	Some- times	Improve Here
ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE: The student constructed and presented a well-organized demonstration; avoiding slang, mispronunciations, and poor grammar; the organization was easy to follow to learn the demonstrated skill. The student has utilized a rich vocabulary and effective writing skills.				
USE OF VISUAL AIDS: visuals or objects were easily and effectively used; easily seen and understood by you and effectively supported the skill being taught.				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses eye contact and varies facial expressions, gestures, and body language to support their demonstration.				
CONNECTION TO AUDIENCE: creates interest and holds your attention; appears poised, confident and comfortable during the demonstration.				
Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement that this student could make to better their presentation.				
Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of this student's presentation.				

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge's Code _____ Judge's School: _____ Judge's Name: _____

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st. Check here if over 7:30

PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING Rank (1st-9th) _____

80-85 Fair 86-90 Good 91-95 Excellent 96-100 Superior Rating (100-80) _____



MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Dramatic Performance Response Ballot

Student Code _____ Student Name _____ Round I II III F

Title of Selection/Author: _____ Total Time: _____

Dramatic Performance: A readily accessible story line from a single play, prose, movie or TV script (monologue or multi-character) delivered by a single student, from text or memory, using no props or costumes. Students should embody character(s) in stance, gesture, movement, facial expressions and vocal quality; striving for believable portrayals. Students are required to provide brief introductory remarks at some point, which at the least must identify the title and author of the work.

Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.

During this performance the student demonstrates the following skills:	Excellent Throughout	Usually	Some- times	Improve Here
CREATION OF SETTING: the total effect should be to carry the listener away mentally to the time and place of the selection.				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses and varies facial expressions, gestures, and body language to enhance their performance.				
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS (if applicable): uses body, voices, gestures and focal points to create different, believable characters interacting with each other.				
CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCE: creates interest and holds your attention; takes you on a journey with the character(s).				

Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement this student could make to better their performance.	
Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of this student's performance.	

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge's Code _____ Judge's School: _____ Judge's Name: _____

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st. Check here if over 7:30

PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING Rank (1st-9th) _____

80-85 Fair 86-90 Good 91-95 Excellent 96-100 Superior Rating (100-80) _____



MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Duo Interpretation Performance Response Ballot

Student Code _____ Student Name _____ Round I II III F

Title of Selection/Author: _____ Total Time: _____

Duo: A story line from a readily accessible single play, prose, movie or TV script, which challenges two performers (each portraying one or more characters) to create a dynamic story and setting using no props or costumes, from text or memory. Duo is about balance. Each performer should effectively utilize voice, facial expressions, body, gestures, and movement to create a dynamic interaction between partners. As a unit, the two performers will vocally and physically respond to each other's verbal and non-verbal cues without eye contact or physical contact (except during the introduction). Both students are required to provide brief introductory remarks at some point, which at the least must identify the title and author of the work. .

Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.

During this performance the students demonstrates the following skills:	Excellently Throughout	Usually	Sometimes	Improve Here
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER(S) INTERACTION: uses body, voice, and gestures to create different, characters believably interacting with each other.				
CREATION OF SETTING: the total effect should be to carry the listener away mentally to the time and place of the selection.				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses and varies facial expressions, gestures, and body language to enhance their performance.				
CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCE: creates interest and holds your attention; and takes you on a journey with the character(s).				

Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement each student could make to better their performance.	Student A: Student B:
Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of each student's performance.	Student A: Student B:

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge's Code _____ Judge's School: _____ Judge's Name: _____

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st. Check here if over 7:30

PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING Rank (1st-9th) _____

80-85 Fair 86-90 Good 91-95 Excellent 96-100 Superior Rating (100-80) _____



MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Interpretation of Free Verse/Poetry Response Ballot

Student Code _____ Student Name _____ Round I II III F

Title of Selection/Author: _____ Total Time: _____

Free Verse/Poetry: *A readily accessible selection of poetry or song lyrics; rhyming or not, delivered by a single performer from a required text (either from a single poem or a collection of poems, frequently referred to as a program). Poems combined in a program should be unified by some central element (e.g. author, subject, style or form). Poems or programs may feature rhyme, blank or free verse. This event is designated as a “reading” event, therefore the student should strive to bring the material to life using vocal skills, facial expressions, body postures and gestures while movement around the presentation area should be minimal. Students are required to provide brief introductory remarks at some point, which must at least identify the title(s) and author of the work(s).*

Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.

During this performance the student demonstrates the following skills:	Excellent Throughout	Usually	Some -times	Improve Here
ENGAGING PERSONA(S): creates interest and holds your attention. Invites you with their eyes to listen to their performance.				
POETIC LANGUAGE: demonstrates and expresses the author’s use of imagery, rhythm, similes, metaphors, symbolism, and sounds.				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses and varies facial expressions, gestures, and body language to enhance their performance.				
DISTINCT POINTS OF VIEW: if performing a program of poems, the presenter creates distinguishable and separate narrators for each poem selected.				
Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement this student could make to better their performance.				
Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of this student’s performance.				

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge’s Code _____ Judge’s School: _____ Judge’s Name: _____

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st. Check here if over 7:30

PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING Rank (1st-9th) _____

80-85 Fair 86-90 Good 91-95 Excellent 96-100 Superior Rating (100-80) _____



MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Impromptu Speaking Response Ballot

Student Code _____ Student Name _____ Round I II III F

Prompt Selected: _____ Total Time: _____

Impromptu: A student will pull three prompts at random, select one and have seven minutes in which to prepare and present a short, well-organized talk inspired by the chosen "jump start." Students **MUST** adhere to the chosen prompt. The speech should have a logical beginning, middle and end. Students may speak with or without the assistance of a 3x5 index card. **Please note:** In this category, it is vital to comment upon both the content and the delivery of the student's message; however, evaluate the student's presentation regardless of your own opinion on the subject matter. Used prompts should be discarded, the other two should be returned to the envelope for the next speakers. **Total preparation and presentation time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period, divided at the student's discretion. Judges must provide verbal time signals during preparation time and visual time signals once the student begins speaking.**

During this performance the student demonstrates the following skills:	Excellent Throughout	Usually	Some- times	Improve Here
ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE: Did the student adhere to the chosen prompt topic and construct a well-organized talk; avoid slang, poor grammar, and mispronunciations; use a distinct organizational pattern, which you could easily follow? The entire presentation was pertinent to the chosen prompt.				
LOGIC AND EXAMPLES: did the student effectively analyze the topic and use a variety of examples to illustrate their thoughts on the specific topic.				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses eye contact and varies facial expressions, gestures, and body language to enhance their presentation.				
CONNECTION TO AUDIENCE: creates interest and holds your attention; presents a developed point of view.				
Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement that this student could make to better their presentation.				
Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of this student's presentation.				

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge's Code _____ Judge's School: _____ Judge's Name: _____

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st. Check here if over 7:30
 PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING Rank (1st-9th) _____
 80-85 Fair 86-90 Good 91-95 Excellent 96-100 Superior Rating (100-80) _____



MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Original Oratory Response Ballot

Student Code _____ Student Name _____ Round I II III F

Title of Oratory: _____ Total Time: _____

Original Oratory/Persuasive: *an original, persuasive speech on any topic of concern to the student, delivered from text or memory. The speech may be humorous or serious in nature, but the speaker should strive to identify a specific problem or concern and provide possible strategies and/or solutions in a natural and realistic way. The speaker should be held accountable for substantiating and supporting main positions with a variety of effective supporting material from qualified sources. There should be a clear structure that helps the listener follow the speech's flow and appreciate the use of the supporting material. There is a maximum of 150 directly quoted words. **Please note:** In this category, it is vital to comment upon both the writing and the delivery of the student's message; however, evaluate the student's presentation regardless of your own opinion on the subject matter.*

Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.

During this performance the student demonstrates the following skills:	Excellent Throughout	Usually	Some- times	Improve Here
ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE: The student constructed and presented a well-organized talk; avoiding slang, poor grammar, and mispronunciations; using a distinct organizational pattern, which you could easily follow. The student has utilized a rich vocabulary and effective writing skills.				
LOGIC AND EXAMPLES: did the student effectively analyze the topic and use good reasoning and logic with a variety of examples to illustrate their point of view.				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses eye contact and varies facial expressions, gestures, and body language to support their presentation.				
CONNECTION TO AUDIENCE: creates interest and holds your attention; appears poised, confident and comfortable during the presentation.				
Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement that this student could make to better their presentation.				
Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of this student's presentation.				

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge's Code _____ Judge's School: _____ Judge's Name: _____

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st. Check here if over 7:30

PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING Rank (1st-9th) _____

80-85 Fair 86-90 Good 91-95 Excellent 96-100 Superior Rating (100-80) _____



MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Interpretation of Prose Response Ballot

Student Code _____ Student Name _____ Round I II III F

Title of Selection/Author: _____ Total Time: _____

Prose: *an excerpt from a readily accessible novel, short story, letter, diary or essay; fiction or non-fiction, delivered by a single student from a required text using no props or costumes. This event is designated as a "reading" event, therefore the student should strive to bring the material to life using vocal skills, facial expressions, body postures and gestures while movement around the presentation area should be minimal. Students are required to provide brief introductory remarks at some point, which at the least must identify the title and author of the work.*

Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.

During this performance the student demonstrates the following skills:	Excellently Throughout	Usually	Some-times	Improve Here
ENGAGING NARRATION: creates interest and holds your attention. Invites you with their eyes to listen to their performance.				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses and varies facial expressions, gestures, and body language to enhance their performance.				
DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERS (if applicable): uses body, focal points, voices and gestures to create different, believable characters.				
FOCAL POINTS (if applicable): creates consistent and clear focal points that successfully create the illusion of the characters talking to each other (not to the audience).				

Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement this student could make to better their performance.	
Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of this student's performance.	

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge's Code _____ Judge's School: _____ Judge's Name: _____

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st. Check here if over 7:30

PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING Rank (1st-9th) _____

80-85 Fair 86-90 Good 91-95 Excellent 96-100 Superior Rating (100-80) _____



MASSACHUSETTS MIDDLE SCHOOL SPEECH LEAGUE

Storytelling Response Ballot

Student Code _____ Student Name _____ Round I II III F

Title of Selection/Source Author: _____ Total Time: _____

Storytelling: Students use a single, readily accessible story, anecdote, tale, myth or legend that must be retold from text or memory without costumes or props. Students will use their own words to convey the story's plot, however the retelling must be true to the original content. Movement is allowed, and one chair may be used, or the speaker may choose to stand. Students should strive to bring the material to life using voice, facial expression, body, movement and gesture. The student is required to provide brief introductory remarks at some point, which at the least must identify the title and author of the work. **Time limit: 7 minutes with a 30-second grace period. Judges should offer to provide visual time signals.**

During this performance the student demonstrates the following skills:	Excellent Throughout	Usually	Some- times	Improve Here
DISTINCTIVE NARRATOR and CHARACTERS (if applicable): uses body, voice, and gesture effectively to convey the story and (if applicable) creates different, believable characters interacting with each other.				
CREATION OF SETTING: the total effect should be to carry the listener away mentally to the time and place of the selection.				
VOCAL VARIATION: effectively varies volume, pitch, speaking rate, tone, pauses, emphasis and mood.				
PHYSICAL VARIETY: uses and varies facial expression, gesture, and body language to enhance their performance.				
CAPTIVATING PERFORMANCE: creates interest and holds your attention; and takes you on a journey with the character(s).				
Based on your choices above, suggest a specific improvement that this student could make to better their performance.				
Based on your choices above, describe a specific outstanding part of this student's performance.				

Please use the space below to write your observations and comments *while* the student is presenting. Students welcome your additional responses here and on the back of this page. Thank you!

Judge's Code _____ Judge's School: _____ Judge's Name: _____

Students who speak beyond 7minutes, 30seconds may not be ranked 1st. Check here if over 7:30

PLEASE DO NOT TIE STUDENTS IN EITHER RANK OR RATING Rank (1st-9th) _____

80-85 Fair 86-90 Good 91-95 Excellent 96-100 Superior Rating (100-80) _____