

## Guidelines for 4-H Day

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### Event: Oral Interpretations/Readings

**Objective(s):** To use the performer's vocal ability and limited movements to creatively explore and develop previously published work of literature for performance, making the selection interesting to see and hear.

**Time Limit:**

1. Time limit is 5 minutes maximum for Juniors and Intermediates and 10 minutes maximum for Seniors.
2. Judge will deduct one ribbon placing if time is exceeded; 30-second grace period.

**Equipment and/or Facilities Provided by Event Monitors:**

1. Lectern may or may not be available.

**Equipment Provided by Participants:**

Script, if used.

**Guidelines:**

1. There can be one performer (solo) or two performers working as a team (duo).
2. There will be the following divisions:
  - Junior: ages 7-9
  - Intermediate: ages 10-13
  - Senior: ages 14-18
3. The age of the oldest member determines the age division of competition.
4. The competitors will select all or a portion of a piece of literature – either prose or poetry. It can be humorous or serious.
5. The selection can original material or published material.
6. Competitors may cut the literature selection to fit the time limit.
7. The title and author of the selection should be noted in the speech. (A one-ribbon penalty is required for failure to do so.) The identification of the piece should be near its beginning but may follow a teaser or other background information.
8. A short section may be added to the presentation to explain the context of the selection, particularly if it is taken from a longer work.
9. No props, audiovisuals, or costumes will be allowed.
10. Scripts and/or books will be allowed.
11. Hands must not touch the floor and one foot must remain on the floor at all times.
12. The emphasis should be on oral interpretation. Gestures, voices, facial expressions, and other means of creating vivid characterizations are important, but as this is an oral interpretation, narration is also allowed. Thinking of a dramatic storyteller is a good example of what this event should look like.
13. The participant may read from a script or have the piece memorized.
14. Judge will serve as the timekeeper.
15. **Performers should recognize this is a family event and choose costumes, themes, and performances that show respect for both the performers and the audience.**

**Resources: Resources that may be used in planning this event include:**

Charlotte Lee & Timothy Gura (1997), **Oral Interpretation**, 9th Ed.; Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company  
Eugene and Margaret Bahn (1970), **A History of Oral Interpretation: Bringing Literature to Life Through Performance** (2001); NP: Glencoe/McGraw-Hill  
Todd V. Lewis (2004), **Communicating Literature: An Introduction to Oral Interpretation**; NP: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company

**Wikipedia**  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oral\\_interpretation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oral_interpretation)  
Jack C. Rang (1994), **How to Read the Bible Aloud: Oral Interpretation of Scripture**, NP: Paulist Press  
Nicholas R. Elledge (2006), **The Art of Interpretation: A Study in Bringing Literature to Life**; NP: Communicators Advantage Project  
**To Be Read Aloud** <http://www.tobereadaloud.org>

## Guidelines for 4-H Day

*Oral Interpretations Score Sheet*

County (circle one):

LN

MI

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title of Presentation:</b>
<b>Club:</b>	
<b>4-H Age:    Years in 4-H:    Division:</b> Junior (7-9) ___ Intermediate (10-13) ___ Senior (14-18) ___	
<b>Event Time Limit:</b> 5 Minutes (Jr./ Int.) or 10 minutes (Sr.) <b>Event Actual Time:</b> _____	

Weight	The speaker	P	B	R	W	Comments
<b>20</b>	<b>Content Selection:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Selection has literary merit and is worthy of performance</li> <li>▪ Subject matter is appropriate and tasteful</li> <li>▪ Meets time requirement</li> </ul>					
<b>40</b>	<b>Vocal Delivery:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Communicates directly and sincerely</li> <li>▪ Holds audience's attention</li> <li>▪ Speaks clearly</li> <li>▪ Develops characters portrayed effectively and distinctly</li> <li>▪ Incorporates proper vocal techniques including projection, articulation, tone/pitch, rate/fluency, and inflection</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates accurate pronunciation</li> <li>▪ Performance is free from distracting mannerisms (um's, ah's, etc.)</li> </ul>					
<b>40</b>	<b>Physical Delivery:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Displays appropriate gestures and facial expressions</li> <li>▪ Develops physical attributes of characters effectively and distinctly</li> <li>▪ Exhibits good energy level, passion, movement, and posture</li> <li>▪ Performance is free from distracting mannerisms (swaying, hands in pockets, etc.)</li> </ul>					

**Penalty: reduction by one ribbon**

\_\_\_ Exceeds time (30-second grace period reduction by one ribbon)

\_\_\_ The title and author of the selection not noted in the speech.

**Circle ONE      Top Purple\*    Alternate Top Purple\*    Purple    Blue    Red    White**

\*Top Purple and Alternate Top Purple are only used at County or District 4-H Day.

**Reason for Ranking and other Comments:** (Use back of sheet for additional comments.)

Judge's initials: \_\_\_