

Classical Cottage School  
Forensics and Drama

Is pleased to offer for your consideration

# 2011 CCS Forensics Competition

**Thursday, April 14th, 3:00p.m.**  
**Awards at 5:00**

**Calvary Baptist Church, 844 Amherst Street, Winchester, Virginia.**

(Forensics: public speaking named by the Latin adjective *forensis* referring to the Roman tradition of speaking and presenting arguments in the “forum” )

Contests will include

Dramatic Interpretation  
Duo Dramatic Interpretation  
Storytelling (2011 theme -Myths)

Please do not enter previously competed pieces  
Trophies and awards will be presented in each category  
Contest is open to all middle and high school students  
Please feel free to post to your newsgroups and clubs  
Please email to register and receive specific rules and guidelines

Valerie O’Keeffe (540) 336-2357 or [Vokeeffe@comcast.net](mailto:Vokeeffe@comcast.net)



Follow this link or go to NFL (National Forensics League) to find out more about this sport)  
<http://www.nflonline.org/AboutNFL/Advocate>

## Rules of the day

All presentations begin by handing an entry form to your judges and taking a place center stage. Students should wait for an indication that judges are ready for them to begin. A simple question of “Judges ready?” would be advised if there is doubt about the matter.

After a student begins, restarts are permissible from a reasonable point or the beginning if the piece is not too far along.

Following a performance a “thank you” and quiet room exit is all that is required. Judging forms will be available at the door upon contest end.

## *Duo Interpretation of Literature*

### Rules of Procedure

1. The two interpreters are to render a dynamic moment, from memory, utilizing appropriate vocal expression, gestures and interactions. The interpreters will vocally and physically respond to each other’s verbal and nonverbal cues while maintaining an off stage focus. Students are not allowed to make direct eye contact with one another except during the introduction.
2. The selection must be from a single published play, single fictional or non-fictional work. The author’s words as published in the literature may not be altered for this presentation with the exception that cutting is permitted. The material may be serious, humorous or both. Each interpreter may present one or more characters.
3. The selection must begin from center stage. Performers are not allowed to make physical contact with each other during the performance, except during the introduction. Physical movement is restricted to performers moving around one another, switching positions, pivoting from side to side or turning around completely. Students must remain standing.
4. No costumes or properties may be used.
5. The presentation should not exceed 4 minutes, including at most one minute of introduction and transitional material other than the author’s words. Judges may not award first place to any duo interpretation that performs beyond the thirty-second grace period.

### Criteria for judging:

- ☒ Introduction: The introduction must name the work and author, provide necessary background information and establish the mood. If using a teaser, or if lines from the selection are used in the introduction, the speakers must adhere to the rules of the event.
- ☒ Material: The material being presented should allow for interesting character choices and reasonable plot structure. The material should be appropriate for the students. Consideration should be given to the literary merit of the selection.
- ☒ Interaction and environment: The performers should convince you that they truly see the other character(s). Each character should listen and react, with face and body especially as the other is talking. What one character says or does should provoke a fitting vocal, physical and emotional response from the other character. The characters should see and respond to what is around them. They should take the audience into the physical world of their story. The interpreters will vocally and physically respond to each other’s verbal and non-verbal cues while maintaining an off stage focus.
- ☒ Characterization: Each character should convey a distinct, consistent personality, stance, and manner of gesturing. Each character should be sufficiently developed and should interact meaningfully with the other characters.
- ☒ Physicality: The physical movement and portrayal should contribute to the overall aesthetics of the presentation. A realistic environment should be established by the performers. Pantomime, if used, should be accurate and realistic.
- ☒ Vocal Quality: The interpreters, within character, should appropriately vary pitch, volume, rate, emphasis, quality, phrasing and intensity to convey the various moods and messages in the story.
- ☒ Overall Effect: The overall performance should build to various moments and have a climax. The performance should be complete and easy to follow. The performance should display another world outside of the performance space.

# *Dramatic Interpretation*

## Rules of Procedure

1. The presentation must be from a single published play or single published script, single fictional or nonfictional work. The author's words as published in the literature may not be altered for this performance with the exception that cutting is permitted. The cutting may be serious or humorous. Scenes from musicals are acceptable, provided that the singing is limited to a maximum of thirty (30) seconds total within the presentation.
2. The selection must be memorized.
3. Speakers may not take lines belonging to one character and apply them to a different character in the performance.
4. No costumes or properties may be used.
5. Although this is primarily a display of vocal ability, body language will play a part in the overall performance. Since this is a memorized performance, and since it is drama, more vocal and physical suggestion may be required in order to portray characters, conflict and story. The performer should effectively utilize movement to create the characters' world in the mind's eye of the audience. However, no physical action should be performed that will distract the audience's attention to the drama being performed.
6. The presentation should not exceed 4 minutes, including at most one minute of introduction and transitional material other than the author's words. Judges may not award first place to any contestant that performs beyond the thirty-second grace period.

## **Criteria for judging:**

- ☒ Introduction: The introduction must name the work and author, provide necessary background information and establish the mood. If using a teaser, or if lines from the selection are used in the introduction, the speaker must adhere to the rules of the event.
- ☒ Material: Single or multiple character cuttings should be considered equally. The student should be able to capture and convey the emotional and intellectual depths of the characters, as well as the development of both the characterization and plot. Consideration should be given to the literary merit of the selection.
- ☒ Characterization: Each character should be interesting, engaging and lifelike. The performer should create a physical, vocal and temperamental existence suited for each character. The performer should keep these choices consistent. The performer should use his or her face, eyes and body to create the characters effectively. Each character should show the intent of what he/she is wanting, thinking, feeling and remembering when speaking and reacting. Characters should appropriately develop and/ or deepen as the plot or story line progresses.
- ☒ Multiple Characterizations (if used): The transitions when moving from one character to another should be clean and crisp. The pacing of transition should reflect the tempo of the interaction.
- ☒ Environment: Each character should create a world around him or her. Movement should be used to create a three-dimensional environment in which the characters exist. Pantomime, if used, should be accurate and realistic. Gestures should be fully realized, creating in just the right way what the performer intends the audience to see. When doing a multiple character selection, the performer should create effective interaction between the characters.
- ☒ Overall Effect: The overall performance should build to various moments and have a climax. The story should be complete and easy to follow. The performance should display another world outside of the performance space.

## *Storytelling—Theme Myths*

### Rules of Procedure

1. The storyline should be original and loosely based on a Myth.
2. This piece will be memorized and no script may be used.
3. No costumes or properties may be used.
4. The delivery must begin delivered from center stage. Movement and gestures, if used, should be appropriate to the story
5. The presentation should not exceed 3 minutes, including at most one minute of introduction. Judges may not award first place to any contestant that performs beyond the thirty-second grace period.

### Criteria for judging:

- ☒ Introduction: The introduction must name the Myth used.
- ☒ The speaker should capture and convey the plot and/or development. Imagery should be carefully colored so as to promote audience understanding and appreciation.
- ☒ Narrator/Character Creation: The narrator should be believable and conversational. The narrator should be able to lead the audience through the details of the story, keeping a consistent and clear attitude toward people, objects and events within the tale. The storyteller should develop and maintain unique and distinct narrative voices for each selection within the program. If they are utilized, character voices should be distinctive, consistent and appropriate to the character. The storyteller should be able to demonstrate the characters' feelings and thoughts through the use of vocal inflections, facial expressions including visualization, and appropriate intensity.
- ☒ Visualization: The storyteller should help the audience to see the particular world of the characters establishing a strong sense of environment. The storyteller should use facial expressions and gestures appropriately to bring the script to life.
- ☒ Vocal Variety: The interpreter should appropriately vary pitch, volume, rate, and intensity to convey the various moods and messages in the story. Appropriate words should be stressed for clarity and understanding. The storyteller should appropriately play with sound devices such as alliteration, and attend to the sound and meaning of every word.
- ☒ Audience Contact: The storyteller should invite the audience into the presentation, directing eye contact and expressing his or her feelings to individual audience members when appropriate and necessary. The storyteller should stay in the moment, with facial expression and emotional consistency, when making contact with the audience.
- ☒ Overall Effect: The overall performance should build to various moments and have a climax. The performance should be easy to follow and complete. The performance should display another world outside of the performance space and clearly convey the message of the tale.

## *Oral Interpretation of Literature (Poetry)*

### Rules of Procedure

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**Thursday, April 14th, 3:00p.m.  
Awards 5:00**

**Calvary Baptist Church, 844 Amherst Street, Winchester, *Virginia*.**

**Contest will begin promptly at 3:00 please arrive in time to allow your students to orient and prepare. Waiting rooms will be provided with a posted schedule of events.**

**Contestants will perform their events in front of a panel of 2-4 judges only. Contestants will line the hallway outside the judging room as they wait their turn.**

**Students will be able to enter all 4 categories. Priority scheduling will be given to students entering more than 1 category to facilitate this.**

**The facility we use has a no eating or drinking rule which we will follow. Refreshments will be provided following the event in the hall upstairs. Water is available in the hallway.**

**Contestants will fill out one entry form for each category and will get these back at the end with judging forms and feedback .**

**We will hold a short awards ceremony at the end of the judging and will invite contestants to perform for the full audience and their peers.**

**For more information please contact: Valerie O’Keeffe (540) 336-2357 or [vokeeffe@comcast.net](mailto:vokeeffe@comcast.net)**