



# MASTER BALLOT POETRY READING

Round Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (1,2,3,SF,F) Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Room Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please **Print** Name and Affiliation

*Please review the judging considerations on the reverse side of this form.*

Code	Name	Rank (No ties)	Rating

Judge Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## POETRY READING



### ***Definition & General Rules:***

The contestant shall take not less than 5 nor more than 10 minutes, to read from a manuscript a published poem or selection of poems. The poetry may either be lyrical or narrative, but dramatic poetry or cuttings from plays are not permitted. The presentation may consist of a single poem or of several poems. A program of poems must be unified by reason of author or theme.

### ***Judging Considerations: (The National Forensic League)***

Poetry is writing which expresses ideas, experience, or emotion through the creative arrangement of words according to their sound, their rhythm, and their meaning. The more traditional poetry generally has a somewhat regular rhythm, often with a definite, sometimes repeated rhyme scheme. Nontraditional poetry may do away with regular rhythm and rhyme, but rhythmic flow of the individual line remains an integral part of the structure. Unlike prose, which consists of sentences structured into paragraphs, poetry relies on verse and stanza form. Selections from plays (dramas) may not be read in this contest.

The purpose of this contest is to encourage the student to find, understand, experience, and share a poetic work through the art of oral reading. The contestant will have prepared a presentation, including a required introduction which will state at least the title(s) and author(s). The presentation itself may be of an entire work, a cutting of a single longer work, or a collection of shorter works or short cuttings of longer works by one poet or several poets arranged in a program. Any poem used in the performance must have been printed and published.

The contestant will perform the reading (interpretation) using a manuscript (which may be in a folder). Reading from a book or magazine is not permitted. Since the contestant will be holding a manuscript, use of that manuscript should be an integral part of the performance. Responsive use of the body (i.e., spontaneous changes in posture and gesture) is permissible so long as this active use of the body is appropriate to the demands of the selection and a natural outgrowth from the literature being performed. Along with appropriate, effective physical presentation, the contestant will also be evaluated in terms of technique (breathing, tone, pitch, enunciation, phrasing, pace, etc.) and artistry (presentation of mood and imagery, vocal characterization -- if required, creation of unifying effect, etc.).

The final test of good interpretation is the ability to use all these factors so successfully and unobtrusively that the audience forgets that this is a contest and in a created atmosphere is carried into the real or imagined world of the selection.

### ***Time constraints:***

5-10 minutes with a 30 second grace period. Penalties for "excessive" over-undertime are at the discretion of the judge.