

# Dramatic Interpretation Rules

**Description:** *In Dramatic Interpretation the competitor creates an original rendition of a relatable story from a single published work of literature with a focus on plot and character development which captivates and moves the audience.*

**Goal:** *To select and analyze literature, then bring it to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression. Competitors should portray a realistic, varied emotional journey of a character(s) which may or may not be tragic.*

## Dramatic Interpretation Preparation Rules:

1. Interpretive literature may come from a variety of genres including plays, prose, or poetry but the selection must be from a single **published** work, and it may not be authored by the competitor. The selection must be in compliance with the **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
2. The following unpublished works are not permitted: blogs and media transcripts (i.e. movie scripts and audio or video recordings that are not published in written form by the owner). See the **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The competitor must create a completely original interpretation of literature. See the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy**.
4. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
5. A maximum of 150 words may be added for any purpose including but not limited to introductions and transitions. Joining together disconnected words from the source to create new thoughts or ideas are counted as added words.
6. The competitor may quote material external to the piece in the introduction only and must cite the source verbally. This material must be counted as part of the 150 added words.
7. Changes to pronouns, verb tenses, and character names are allowed and not counted as added words. The title and author are not counted as added words.
8. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
9. A competitor may use an interpretive selection in multiple leagues during any given competitive season. The selection may be entered in only one event per tournament (e.g., either Dramatic or Open but not both).
10. Once the competitor uses a selection (book, play, short story, etc.) in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of the published work in subsequent years of competition. The Bible is an exception to this rule.
11. The competitor may enter only one interpretive selection per event.
12. The competitor must provide a script and scanned/photocopied pages used from the original source at each tournament. See **Script Submission Form**. Note: Electronic Script Submission is required at NITOC.

## Dramatic Interpretation Presentation Rules:

1. The competitor must identify the title and author near the beginning of the piece. The competitor will receive a one (1) rank penalty for failure to cite the source.
2. No audio or visual aids or props may be used.
3. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
4. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
5. This is a speech event but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
6. The script must be memorized and delivered as written in the script. The competitor will receive a two (2) rank penalty for use of a written script or notes in competition.
7. Timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor** and **counting up**. Local tournaments may choose to give hand signals every minute until ten (10) minutes have elapsed.
8. Maximum speaking time is ten (10) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
9. Competitors will receive a one (1) rank penalty for going over time by 15 seconds or more.

**Speaking time – ten (10) minutes.**