4-H SPEECH CONTEST

EVENT: DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION

TIME: Maximum - Senior: 10 minutes 
- Junior/Intermediate: 5 minutes

DESCRIPTION:

The art of interpretation is to be regarded as recreating the characters in the story presented and making them seem living and real to the audience.

Selections for interpretations must be cuttings from novels, published short stories or plays. Adaptation may be for the purpose of continuity only. They should be judged for their appropriateness as contest materials and their suitability to the contestants using them. The use of good literature should be noted favorably and the “pieces” devoid of literary merit graded lowest.

This is a contest in oral interpretation, not solo acting. Although gestures and pantomime are not barred, they should be used with restraint. The contestants should be graded on poise, pronunciation, enunciation, inflection, quality and use of the voice and especially the ability to interpret characters correctly and consistently. Narrative should be vivid and animated so as to be an interesting and integral part of the story rather than just “filler” between portions of dialogue.

The final test of good interpretation is the ability to use all these factors so successfully and unobtrusively that the hearer forgets that this is a contest and in perfectly created atmosphere is carried away to the time and place of the story being unfolded.

Contestants shall preface their presentations by naming the author of the reading and the book from which the cutting was made.

Presentation preferred from memory and without the use of physical objects or costumes. However, lecture, manuscript and prompter will be permitted.

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