

Guidelines for Poetry Recitation



POEMS 2026

Levels 1, 2, and 3 and higher refer to German 1, 2, and 3 and higher. Students will recite the poetry chosen for their level. Please sign up for **the level in which you're enrolled** in school at the moment. **Each school may sign up a maximum of 3 students per level.**

Guidelines for Levels 1, 2, and 3 and higher:

On the day of the competition:

- Begin by clearly stating your name, level, and school name
- Deliver the poem entirely from memory
- Special gestures are allowed to enhance the interpretation of the poem
- No visuals or costumes

Judging Criteria Levels 1, 2, and 3+:

1. Memorization
2. Clear, native-like pronunciation
3. Fluency
4. Interpretation

Level H refers to students who are able to **write and perform an original piece of poetry** such as

- a heritage speaker (one who learned German from a parent at a young age)
- someone who has attended a German school full-time for a semester or year
- an exchange student from a German-speaking country
- students in German 3 and up who want the challenge of writing their own poem

Guidelines for Level H **changes**:

- Write a poem inspired by this year's topic and including this year's slogan
- Poems should be **not exceed 16 lines**
- **Poems need to be uploaded on the German Day Website a day before the competition**
- Meter, rhyme, and stanzas are optional (a song or rap is a form of poem)
- **Begin by clearly stating your name and school**
- **Read your poem from a sheet of paper or a digital device**

"Memorization" is not an evaluation criteria for the Heritage Speaker Poetry category. In its place is "Expression of GD Theme" (how well the German Day theme is represented). The category "Interpretation" evaluates the student's presentation.

All presentations are scored with a rubric. All decisions by judges are final.