

SCSTA MIDDLE SCHOOL FESTIVAL

STORYTELLING

Event Rules

4 entries per team

Contestants must choose a **story** from any source, published or unpublished, except from a play. The story **MUST** be told with **NO manuscript or notes** allowed (**MUST BE MEMORIZED**). **Paraphrasing** and **improvisation** are **allowed** and **encouraged**. The story must be **appropriate for a middle school audience**. While stories may come from any source, examples might include cultural tales, regional stories, oral histories, fables, Biblical stories, etc. The event is designed to entertain the audience as storytelling combines elements of **acting AND interpretation**. The contestants must provide a **brief slate** that includes the **performer's name, school number, title & author (if known)**, **theme** or **moral**, and **origin** of the story. The storytellers must rely on their **voice, facial expressions, gestures, and movements** to create the story. **There are NO restrictions on movement**. The festival will provide a small table and one chair. Contestants **MAY** use the space and furniture in the room however they please. **Props** are permitted. **Makeup** and **costumes** are not permitted. No special sound effects, lighting, or offstage voices will be allowed. **Side-coaching is prohibited and will lead to disqualification.**

TIME LIMIT: 5 minutes maximum, including a slate.

SCSTA MIDDLE SCHOOL FESTIVAL

STORYTELLING

Performer (s) _____

Preliminary Round ☐

Final Round ☐

School Number _____

Time: _____ Minutes (Limit 5 Minutes)

Criteria	Superior	Advanced	Proficient	Basic Level	Emerging
	5 Points	4 Points	3 Points	2 Points	1 Point
Professionalism & Preparedness	Student is completely prepared and has obviously rehearsed. Selection is from an appropriate source (not a play) and is an excellent choice for middle school.	Student seems prepared but might benefit from a couple more rehearsals. Selection is from appropriate source and is a good choice for middle school.	Student seems to be somewhat unprepared to present. Selection is appropriate and can work for the middle school level.	Student does not seem prepared to present. Selection is questionable, and choice is too juvenile or advanced for a middle schooler.	Student's performance is extremely short or unfocused because of lack of preparation. Selection is from a play/not appropriate for middle school.
Interpretation	Theme or moral was incredibly consistent, excellent characterization created, and incredibly clear, coherent, and enjoyable story.	Theme or moral was consistent, good characterization created, and a clear, coherent, and enjoyable story.	Theme or moral was consistent, characterization was created, and a clear, coherent, and enjoyable story.	Theme or moral was partially consistent, characterization was somewhat created, and the story is somewhat present.	Theme or moral was not observed characterization was not created, and the story was unclear.
Vocal Technique	Incredibly clear articulation and projection, vocal variation (tempo, inflection, volume, etc.) are incredibly appropriate for the emotional and intellectual levels of the story.	Very clear articulation and projection, vocal variation (tempo, inflection, volume, etc.) are very appropriate for the emotional and intellectual levels of the story.	Clear articulation and projection, vocal variation (tempo, inflection, volume, etc.) are appropriate for the emotional and intellectual levels of the story.	Weak articulation and projection, vocal variation (tempo, inflection, volume, etc.) are somewhat appropriate for the story.	Poor articulation and projection, vocal variation (tempo, inflection, volume, etc.) are not appropriate for the story.
Delivery	Performer excels using postures, gestures and facial expressions to appropriately portray characters, engage body and voice to illustrate story, effectively and creatively uses space, and connects and creates rapport with the audience.	Performer uses many postures, gestures and facial expressions to appropriately portray characters, engage body and voice to illustrate story, uses space very effectively, and connects and creates rapport with the audience.	Performer uses postures, gestures and facial expressions to appropriately portray characters, engage body and voice to illustrate story, effectively uses space, and connects with the audience.	Performer uses some postures, gestures and facial expressions to portray characters, begins to engage body and voice to illustrate story, attempts to use space effectively and tries to connect with the audience.	Performer uses little to no postures, gestures and facial expressions to portray characters, does not engage body and voice to illustrate story, does not use space effectively and fails to connect with the audience.
Overall Performance	Performer expertly presented a story that is creative, imaginative, and innovative, is very appropriate for them; performer is incredibly poised and well-rehearsed, established an incredibly consistent and creative style, presents a clear climax, excellent timing/pacing, and demonstrated excellent focus and concentration throughout the story.	Performer presented a story that is very creative and imaginative, is appropriate for them; performer is very poised and well-rehearsed, established a very consistent style, presents a clear climax, timing/pacing, and demonstrated great focus and concentration throughout the story.	Performer presented a story that is creative and imaginative, is appropriate for them; performer is poised and well-rehearsed, established a consistent style, presents a clear climax, timing/pacing evident, and demonstrated focus and concentration throughout the story.	Performer presented a story that has little creativity, is somewhat appropriate for them; performer struggles to be poised and well-rehearsed, struggled to establish a consistent style, present a partially clear climax, timing/pacing is off and lost some focus and concentration throughout the story.	Performer did not present creative or imaginative story; story does not suit performer; performer was not well-rehearsed, did not establish a consistent style, did not present clear climax, and had little to no focus, timing/pacing and concentration throughout the story.

_____ **TOTAL POINTS (25 possible)** **Superior (21-25)** **Excellent (16-20)** **Good (11-15)** **Fair (0-10)**

Judges Comments:

Judges Affiliation _____

Judges Signature: _____

FOR TALLY ROOM ONLY

_____ Deductions (-1.25 for over time)

_____ **ADJUSTED TOTAL POINTS**