

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONTESTANT AND COACH

• **ENTRIES.** **TWO students from each grade level** (grades 1, 2, and 3) may be entered in the Storytelling District Contest from each school.

ONLY ONE student from each grade level advances to State.

OPTIONALLY, districts may allow **THREE** students per grade level from each school to enter the District Meet, depending on space and resources available.

• **ADVANCING TO STATE.** The first place winners from each grade level advances to State. The second place winners will be the first alternates. The third place winners will be the second alternates (replacing the first alternates if they are unable to replace an absent State Qualifier) (See page 8 for complete rules for advancing to State. [See page 108 for an abbreviated chart for contest administration.](#))

• **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** Contestants in Storytelling hear a short story of about two-to-three 8-1/2" × 11" pages in length (approximately 1000 to 1200 words). Contestants then retell the story **before a required audience** and an odd number of judges (one or three) within about 6 minutes. The object is for students to demonstrate their ability to speak before an audience, organize detail, and creatively re-tell the story that they have just heard. The judge(s) has/have not heard the story; therefore, they are not listening for minute detail, but for expression, intonation, characterization, and enthusiasm in the student's voice as he/she speaks. Eye contact with judge(s) and audience, posture, articulation, and **effective but not overuse of gestures**, are also important to the judging. **Students should be ranked lower if school uniforms or costumes are worn.**

• **WHAT HAPPENS IN THE CONTEST.**

- 1) The contest director will announce the time and place that contestants and adults should report for receiving evaluations and the announcement of contestants advancing to the final round.
- 2) All persons, other than contestants, will then be dismissed from the room. If there are 7 or fewer contestants in the contest, only one round is needed. If there are 8 or more contestants, up to six students will be assigned to a section. The contest director also serves as the reader for the section. The contestants and the reader only will be in the room when the story is read.
- 3) As roll is called and substitutes OR alternates are checked in, each contestant will be given a card on which the letter of his/her speaking order is written, in accordance to the Contestant Roster (**Do NOT change speaking order.**);
- 4) The Director/Reader shall read the story aloud to contestants only, while the Assistant Director(s) keep the hallway quiet.
- 5) Contestants then assemble quietly **outside** the room. One Assistant will organize children, while the other monitors **inside** the room. **Wait about two minutes before beginning the contest.**
- 6) The judge(s) may enter and make ready for the

first contestant **by sitting in various parts of the room, NOT together.** Because the PSIA events are intended to be educational, audiences are **required** and welcome to the capacity of the room. **Contestants must wait outside the room with their letter cards.** (Coaching students between the time the story is read to them and their retelling of it is prohibited.) Once the first contestant is called in to speak, **NO ONE** should enter or exit the room, unless specified on the roster to do so. Make the verbal announcements in accordance to the Checklist. **ANNOUNCE the title of the story.**

- 7) Contestants will be called into the room by their letters one at a time according to speaking order listed on the roster. Contestants must stay in the contest room after their presentations **and maintain silence throughout the contest.**
- 8) Contestants will deliver their own versions of the story that they heard read to them. **Contestants should NOT state their names or schools in their presentations.** Contestants may provide gestures to express meaning, but they should not walk around the room. We suggest that coaches tape off a 6 foot by 6 foot square and limit children's movement to within that box during their presentations. Children will be encouraged to speak no more than 6 minutes. A BEE reminder card may be held up for contestants who have spoken 5 1/2 minutes, but speaking more than 6 minutes is **NOT** a disqualification. **Judges should take no more than 1 1/2 minutes following the contestant presentation to complete his/her evaluation.**
- 9) After a couple of minutes following the last speaker, the director will accept judges' ballots and with the witness of the Assistant Director(s), place their independent rankings on the Ranking Sheet. The Director will use the **"Ranking Procedures for Speech Contests"**(p. 33) to determine the winners.
- 10) The Contest Director will place Contestant ID Labels on each of the contestants' evaluation pages, which are to be returned to contestants at the Viewing Period and announcement of those advancing to Finals, if a prelim round.

• **PREPARATION FOR CONTEST.** Read and follow all instructions provided in the "Rules for ALL Participants" section of the *PSIA Academic Handbook*. Observe and practice with students all rules and procedures delineated in the "Instructions to the Contestant" and in the "Checklist for Contest Directors." Preparation for the Storytelling Contest should include multiple opportunities for the student to listen to short stories (picture books for ages 4-8 are best) and retell them to an audience. Training in the speech curriculum provided by the school as it coordinates with the evaluation elements of this contest is essential.

(Sample story follows in member handbook)