

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE CONTESTANT AND COACH

• **ENTRIES.** **TWO students from each grade level** (grades 1,2, and 3) OR ages 6, 7, and 8 respectively by Sept. 1 of the current school year, if in an ungraded school, may be entered in the Storytelling District Contest from each school. 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.** A minimum of four students from at least two different schools must compete at the district meet in order for ONE student from each grade level to advance to State. (See page 8 for complete rules for advancing to State.)

• **NATURE OF THE CONTEST.** Contestants in Storytelling hear a short story of about two-to-four 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) in approximately 6 minutes or less. 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) The Director/Reader shall read the story aloud to contestants, while the Assistant Director, if available, keeps the hallway quiet.
- 4) Contestants shall then exit the room and be escorted to their waiting area (which may be outside in the hall, but a room may be better). The Assistant and/or the Director/Reader may assist in organizing children. Wait about two minutes before beginning the contest.
- 5) The judge(s) may enter and make ready for the first contestant. Because the PSIA events are meant to be educational, **audiences are required** and welcome to the capacity of the room. All should enter the room quickly to avoid delay.

Contestants, however, must wait outside the room. 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. Assistants, please assist here. All cell phones, alarm watches and pagers must be turned off during speech presentations. Failure to abide by this audience rule may jeopardize the student's ranking from the violator's school.

- 6) Contestants will be called into the room one at a time according to their randomly arranged speaking order listed on the roster. Contestants may stay in the contest room after they have presented their stories.
- 7) Contestants will deliver their own versions of the story that they heard read to them. Contestants may provide gestures to express meaning, but they should not walk all 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.**
- 8) If a single judge is judging the round, he/she will complete each contestant's evaluation and the ballot form and submit these evaluations and ballots to the Contest Director or other person in charge of the round. If a panel of three judges is used, the Director/Reader may coordinate the tabulation of the judging in the contest room, if time permits. If all judges judge the top six contestants in the same order, then the section Director/Reader is ready to complete the "Preliminary Results Form" or the "Final Results Form," depending on the round. If the judges do not agree on the top winners, they shall, under the direction of the director or tabroom official, use the "Ranking Procedures for Speech Contests" found on pages 26-28 of the handbook (in the judging packets for each judge) and proceed in the order indicated on these pages to determine the winners.

• **PREPARATION FOR CONTEST.** Read and follow all instructions provided in the "Information Pertaining to All Contests" 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" and the "Checklist for Judges." Preparation for the Storytelling Contest should include multiple opportunities for the student to listen to short stories 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)