

# UIL Poetry Interpretation

Information for Judges

You are to be commended for sharing your time, energy and talents with Texas high school students. All successful speech tournaments depend on judges who are willing to teach and encourage young people in this exciting and pressure-filled activity.

Thank you for judging.

## About the Contest

Each student has prepared two performances for the UIL poetry categories. The contest director has drawn at random for the category that all students will use in this round. You may be asked to assist in verifying that the contestants have the appropriate documentation for the category to be performed. Total presentation time, including introduction and transitions, must not exceed seven minutes. **There is no grace period.** An introduction is required, although its content, form, and delivery style is left to the student. The introduction must include the name of the writer and the selection. Performers must utilize a manuscript in the performance.

## Evaluating the Performances

Please use the questions on the Individual Evaluation Sheet to guide your evaluation of each student's performance. Your written comments and suggestions for improvement will be most helpful if they offer specific reasons for the judgments you make. Statements which suggest a personal bias toward an author or selection generally are counterproductive. Please keep in mind that the best critiques **teach** and **encourage** the student.

## Ranking the Contestants

At the end of the round, you will rank the performers by number - 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. - according to your judgment about the quality of the performances. Please put the appropriate rank in the box at the lower right of the Individual Evaluation Sheet. **Do not tie any contestants.** If you are on a panel of judges, please do not confer during the round or before you have completed your ballot. **It is not the responsibility of the judge to disqualify a student.** Any irregularity should be referred to the contest director who may request information or opinions from the judge(s) in making a decision.

Please sign all ballots and individual evaluation sheets.  
Thank you again for your time and interest.