

Criteria for Evaluating Storytelling

Choice of Story: The story must be from a published source. Folk and fairy tales, short stories, and long narrative poems are the most appropriate selections for storytelling. Picture book stories that rely on the illustrations for comprehension and adaptations of novels are inappropriate choices.

The story that was evaluated to be Festival Quality must be the one told at the Festival. No substitution will be permitted.

Original stories are not eligible for competition and evaluation but may be told at the swapping corner. The swapping corner is a feature of the Festival which is open to anyone who wishes to tell a story. Performers are not scheduled but tell on a first-come-first-served basis.

Memory The story should not be memorized word for word (unless it is a poem). The story should flow when told and the person should not have to stop and think of what comes next.

Projection The storyteller should project his/her voice so that all can hear. No electronic amplification is used.

Diction The storyteller should enunciate carefully and use his/her voice effectively.

Personality The flavor of the story should be brought out by the storyteller's presentation, i.e., humorous story, scary story, tall tale.

Poise The storyteller should be relaxed in his/her presentation of the story.

Time The story must last less than ten (10) minutes.

Properties or costumes: Traditionally, storytelling is an oral narrative art form. No properties or costumes are necessary. Staged puppet shows and theatrical dramas are not permitted.