

# Interpretation Rules

**Description:** *The Interpretation is an original rendition by the competitor from a single published work of literature or a self-written work.*

**Goal:** *To select and analyze a written work, then bring it to life through the creative use of voice, movement, and facial expression.*

## **Interpretation Preparation Rules:**

1. Interpretive literature may come from a wide variety of sources including plays, prose, or poetry. For an Open Interpretation, it may also be an original work by the competitor. If not self-authored the selection must be in compliance with the **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
2. The following unpublished works are not permitted: blogs and media transcripts (i.e., movie scripts and audio or video recordings that are not published in written form by the owner). See the **Stoa Publication Guidelines**.
3. The competitor must create a completely original interpretation of literature. Competitors may not copy the cutting and/or blocking of a previous speech and/or video. See the **Stoa Plagiarism Policy**.
4. The literature should be edited to fit the time limit.
5. A maximum of 150 words may be added for any purpose including but not limited to introductions and transitions. Joining together disconnected words from the source to create new thoughts or ideas is counted as added words.\*
6. The competitor may quote material external to the piece in the introduction only and must cite the source verbally. This material must be counted as part of the 150 added words.\*
7. When identifying the source material, the following are not considered added words: the title, the author(s), and the words “by” and “and”.\*
8. Changes to pronouns, verb tenses, and character names are allowed and not counted as added words.\*
9. Dialogue from one character may be given to another character.
10. A competitor may use an interpretive selection in multiple leagues during any given competitive season.
11. Once the competitor uses a selection (book, play, short story, etc.) in any competition in any venue, that competitor may not reuse any part of the published work in subsequent years of competition. The Bible is an exception to this rule.

## **Interpretation Presentation Rules:**

1. The competitor must identify the title and author near the beginning of the piece even if it is an original piece written by the competitor.
2. Competitors may not receive or access any verbal, non-verbal, electronic, and/or written communication, nor any form of visual assistance during delivery of the speech.
3. No props, audio, or visual aids may be used.
4. Only feet are permitted to touch the floor at any time.
5. Gratuitous vulgarity is strictly prohibited.
6. This is a speech event, but some singing and dancing are permitted as appropriate to the piece.
7. **The speech must be memorized and delivered as written in the script.**
8. The timepiece must be **facing toward the competitor and counting up.**
9. The maximum speaking time is six (6) minutes. There is no minimum time limit.

## **\*For Open Interpretation:**

- 5a. There is no limit to the number of words added by the competitor or any restriction on how those words are used.

## **Speaking Time - Up to Six (6) Minutes**