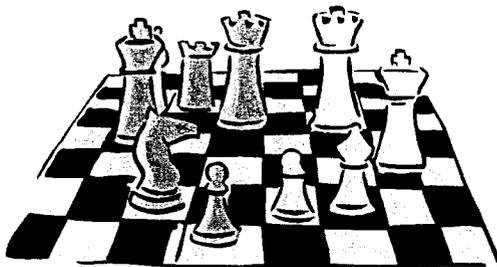


# Chess Puzzle



The benefits of chess are well documented for players of all ages, and especially for young people. Chess teaches problem solving, hones concentration and encourages analytical and strategic thinking. Chess can be a lifelong pursuit. Chess puzzle solving introduces students to the study of chess in a format that can be easily implemented in A+ school programs and district meets.

## Section 1416: CHESS PUZZLE

### (a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) Summary. The study of chess teaches analytical thinking, pattern recognition and creativity, which in turn improve student performance in reading, writing, history, geography, and math.
- (2) Contest Format. Students will take an objective test containing approximately 20 chess puzzles, plus a separate tie-breaker section. Answer formats may include fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice and/or true/false. Thirty minutes will be allotted for the testing period and an additional five minutes will be allotted for the tiebreaker, exclusive of time required for instructions.

### (b) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) Contestants. Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest.
- (2) Divisions. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.
- (3) Individual Competition. For each division, each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.
- (4) Team Competition. If the district has elected to include team competition, the combined scores of the three contestants in each division from a school shall constitute the school's team score.

A team shall have three contestants compete to participate in team competition.

### (c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

- (1) Personnel. All personnel in the contest may be coaches of participating students.
- (2) Verification Period. Contestants and coaches shall be given a period not to exceed 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official answer keys. Unofficial results should be posted. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.
- (3) Official Results. After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (4) Points and Ties. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i). Tied individuals or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which the tie exists. Should there be a tie for first place, there will be no second place. Should there be a tie for second place, there will be no third place, etc.
- (5) Returning Materials. No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

**Chess Puzzle  
grade level  
divisions=  
2/3, 4/5, and  
6-8**

# Contest Administration Rules



Chess Puzzle

- (1) *Numbering of Contestants.* Distribute a copy of the test and answer sheet to each contestant. Instructing them not to open test until the start signal is given. As roll is called, instruct students to write their assigned number in the space provided on their answer sheets.
- (2) *Clear Room.* Contestants and coaches should be informed of the time and place of the verification period. Coaches who are not assigned a specific duty in administering the contest should be dismissed from the contest room before the contest begins.
- (3) *Testing.* Inform contestants that answers must be recorded on the answer sheets according to the instructions given. Contestants may write or mark on the puzzle sheet. Contestants should remain in their seats throughout the testing period. When the 30-minute contest period has ended, give the stop signal and ask all contestants to put their pens/pencils down. Collect all test and answer sheets, and distribute a tiebreaker section and answer sheet to each contestant.
- (4) *Tiebreaker.* When tiebreaker test papers and answer sheets have been distributed, instruct contestants to record all answers on the answer sheet. Give the signal to start. When the tiebreaker period has ended, give the stop signal and ask all contestants to put their pens/pencils down. Collect all tiebreaker test papers and answer sheets.

## GRADING DETAILS

**Current contest instructions specify a simple grading system. For the test and tiebreaker, award one point for each correct answer. There are no deductions for incorrect or skipped questions. It is only necessary to grade the tiebreaker only for papers involved in a tie.**

## Grading/Scoring Rules

- (1) *Briefing Graders.* Brief graders on the procedure to be used for grading and explain scoring process..
- (2) *Criteria.* The test is graded objectively.
- (3) *Scoring.* Each test shall be scored according to the grading instructions provided. Each test should be independently scored twice, and papers contending to place should be scored a third time.
- (4) *Ties.* For all contestants involved in a tie, grade the tiebreaker section according to the grading instructions provided. In individual competition, if two or more contestants tie, the contestant with the best tiebreaker score receives the higher place. In team competition, if two or more teams tie, the team with the best combined tiebreaker score for all team members wins the tiebreaker and receives the higher place. If two or more individuals or teams have both the same objective score and the same tiebreaker score, the tie stands and will not be broken. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc.
- (5) *Points.* Points are awarded through sixth place. Team points are awarded through third place. See Section 1408 (i). Tied contestants or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which the tie exists.

## STUDY RESOURCES

**The UIL Online Store has test packets and study booklets available that contain tests used in last year's competitions.**

**Visit the Chess Puzzle page of the UIL web site for links to online study and practice resources.**

# FAQs about Rules

## **What contest personnel are needed?**

- *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director.
- *Timekeeper.* The contest director will serve as official timekeeper and will give only a start and stop signal. A clock should be visible to all contestants.
- *Graders.* At least three graders should be familiar with the instructions for grading and contest rules. The contest director may recruit more than three graders.

## **What contest materials are necessary?**

- *Provided by UIL:* Copies of test, answer key and answer sheet.
  - These materials will be provided to schools submitting the appropriate requisitions. See Section 1408 (c) and (e) for the dates when invitational materials and district materials will be available.
- *Provided by the school or student-* Pens or pencils
- *Other-* No other materials or notes may be used in the contest.

## **How long does the contest last?**

For all divisions, contestants will be given 30 minutes to answer all test questions and additional time as specified in the contest instructions for the tiebreaker section.

## **How many sets of materials are available?**

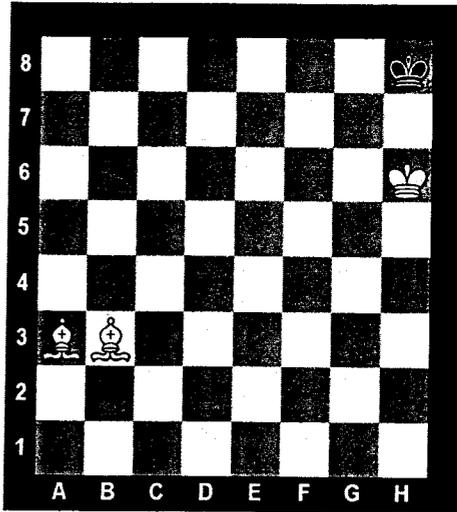
The league will make available sets of test questions, one test for each division for invitational meets, one test for each division for fall/winter district meets, and one test for each division for spring district meets.



Chess Puzzle

These sample test questions are taken from the 2015-2016 Fall/Winter tests for grades 2/3 and 4/5, and the Spring Test for grades 6-8. Actual tests include 20 questions.

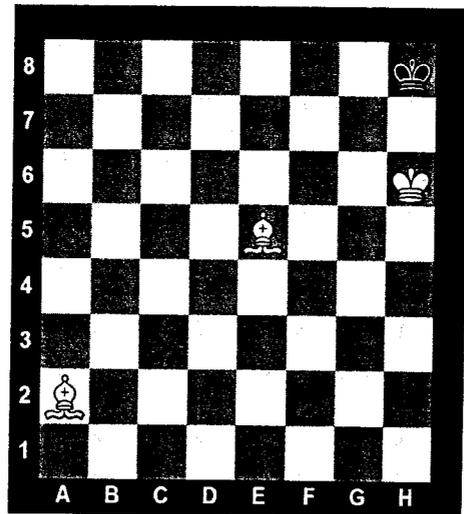
#1. Black to move



What best describes the situation?

- a) Black is in checkmate.
- b) Black is in stalemate.
- c) Black is in check.
- d) None of the above.

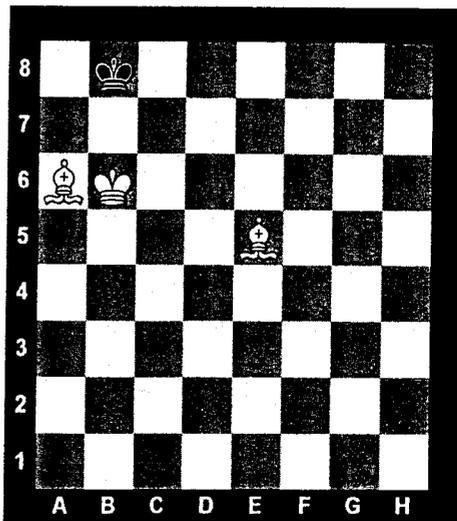
#2. Black to move



What best describes the situation?

- a) Black is in checkmate.
- b) Black is in stalemate.
- c) Black is in check.
- d) None of the above.

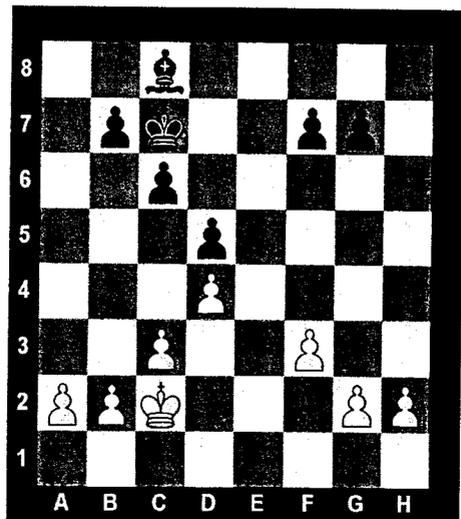
#3. Black to move



What best describes the situation?

- a) Black is in checkmate.
- b) Black is in stalemate.
- c) Black is in check.
- d) None of the above.

#4.



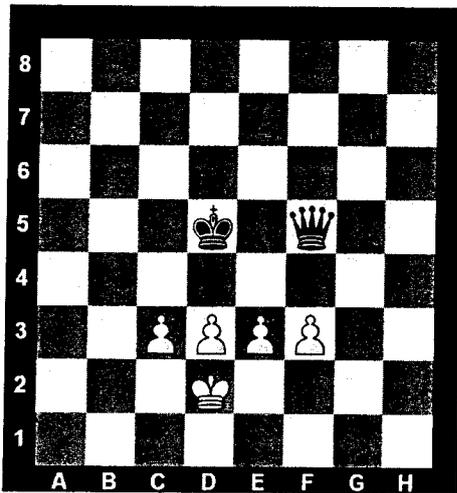
Which side has a material advantage?

- a) White
- b) Black
- c) It's even.
- d) It's not possible to tell without knowing who is to move.

Answers: 1 - b 2 - a 3 - c 4 - b



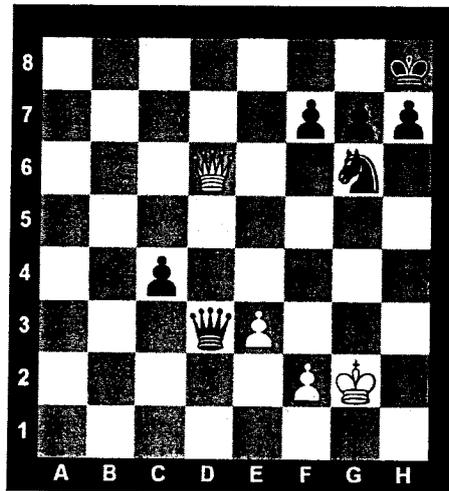
#1. White to move



What's the best move?

- a) c4
- b) d4
- c) e4
- d) f4

#2. White to move

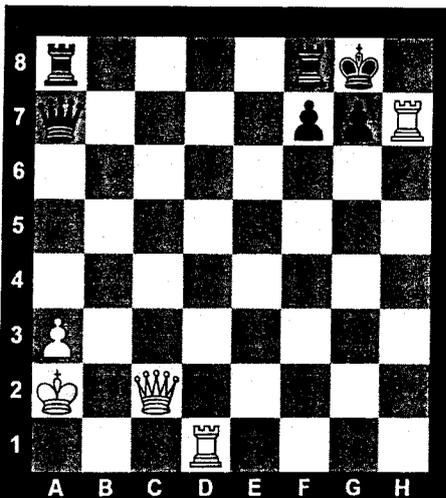


If White can checkmate Black in three moves, what is White's *first* move?

- a) ♖f8
- b) ♖b8
- c) ♖d8
- d) White can't checkmate Black in three moves.

All grade levels take the same tiebreaker. Contestants are not expected to be able to solve all tiebreaker puzzles in the time allotted.

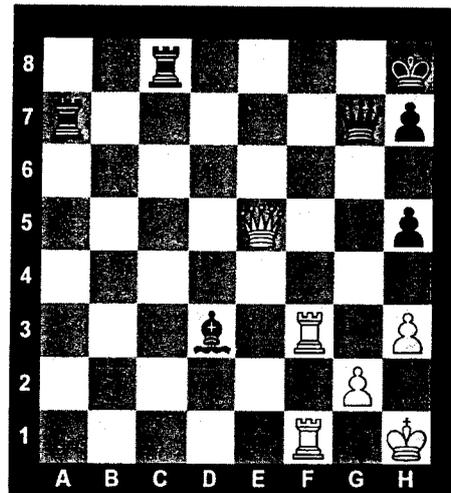
#3. White to move



If White can checkmate Black in three moves, what is White's *first* move?

- a) ♖h1
- b) ♖h2
- c) ♖xg7
- d) ♖h8

#4. White to move



If White can checkmate Black in two moves, what is White's *first* move?

- a) ♖xg7
- b) ♖xh5
- c) ♖f8
- d) White can't checkmate Black in two moves.

Answers: 1 - c 2 - b 3 - d 4 - c

# Music Memory

The focus of the music memory contest is an in-depth study of fine pieces of music literature taken from a wide spectrum of music genres to expose students to great composers, their lives and their music.

The official list is comprised of 16 pieces. There are no separate titles for grades 3/4 and 5/6. Spelling and punctuation are part of the contest. To receive full credit for an answer, all information about the composer and musical selection should be complete as shown on the official list.



## Section 1446: MUSIC MEMORY

### (a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) Summary. The focus of this contest is an in-depth study of fine pieces of music taken from a wide spectrum of genres to expose students to great composers, their lives and their music. In the course of preparing for the contest, students should be given the opportunity to describe and analyze the music, relate the music to history, to society and to culture, and to evaluate musical performance. The UIL will publish each year the official UIL Music Memory List and provide sources for obtaining recordings of the music and information on the pieces and composers.
- (2) Contest Format. Students will listen to approximately 20 seconds of up to 20 musical selections. Students in grades 3 and 4 should be allotted sufficient time to answer the matching portion of the test and to write down the name of the major work, if it is required, and the selection title for the tie breaker. Students in grades 5 and 6 are allotted sufficient time to write down the name of the major work, if it is required, selection title and the name of the composer. No matching portion exists for grades 5 and 6.

### (b) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) Contestants. Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest
- (2) Divisions. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.
- (3) Individuals. Each participant school may enter as many as five contestants in each division in the district meet.
- (4) Team Competition. If the district has elected

to include team competition, the combined scores of all contestants in each division from a school, divided by the number of contestants from that school, shall constitute the school's

team score. A team shall have at least three contestants compete to participate in team competition.

### (c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

- (1) Personnel. All personnel in this contest may be coaches of participating students.
- (2) Ties and Points. Ties shall be broken by grading the four tie breaking selections for each tied contestant or team in the same way that the original test was graded. If a tie remains after the tiebreaker has been scored, the tie will stand. If there is a tie for first place, there is no second place. If there is a tie for second place, there is no third place, etc. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i). Tied individuals or teams split the total points equally for the two or more places in which a tie exists.
- (3) Certificates. Students having a 100% correct paper on the district test selections are eligible for a Certificate of Achievement. The four tie-breaking questions are not to be considered in determining 100% papers.
- (4) Verification Period. A verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Contestants and coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to examine their test papers with official keys. Questions should be directed to the contest director, whose decision shall be final.
- (5) Official Results. After the verification period has ended and all test papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (6) Returning Materials. No materials from district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** See the [UIL web site for this year's Official List](#), information on study materials and additional scoring guidelines.

**Music  
Memory  
grade  
level  
divisions=  
3/4 and  
5/6  
(plus  
pilot  
grades)**



**There are no separate titles for grades 3/4 and 5/6.**

## Contest Administration Rules

- (1) *Number Contestants.* Distribute answer sheets. As roll is called, instruct contestants to write their assigned contestant number in the upper right hand corner of the answer sheets.
- (2) *Clear Room.* Contestants and coaches should be informed of the time and place of the verification period. Spectators and coaches not assigned a specific duty in administering the contest should be dismissed from the contest room before the contest begins.
- (3) *Test and Tie-Breaking Selections.*
  - (A) *Third/Fourth Grades.*
    - **STEP ONE:** Contestants should write the letter of the selection and major work in the blank next to the correct composer's name, using each letter once.
    - **STEP TWO:** Contestants should listen to the music excerpt and put the correct number next to the selection name.
    - **STEP THREE:** Contestants should write major work (where needed) and selection name for tie-breaker selections.
  - (B) *Fifth/Sixth Grades.* Play the 16 test musical selections and the four tie-breaking musical selections in the time indicated. Contestants should write the title of the selection, major work (where needed) and the composer in the blanks provided.

## Judging/Scoring Rules

- (1) *Briefing Graders.* Brief graders on the procedure to be used for grading and explain the scoring process.
- (2) *Criteria.* The test is graded objectively. Two points are awarded for each correct answer; one point is awarded if the answer is correct but misspelled.
- (3) *Scoring.* Each test should be independently scored twice, and papers contending to place should be scored a third time. To receive full credit for an answer, all information about the music selection should be complete as shown on the Official List. For additional scoring instructions, refer to the official Music Memory Scoring Guidelines provided in the *A+ Handbook* and on the UIL website.
  - (A) In the 3rd/4th-grade matching portion of the contest, award two points for recognition of the composer and two points for recognition of selection title. In the 3rd/4th-grade tie-breaking portion of the contest, award two points for the correct major work, if required, and two points for the correct selection. Award one point if the major work is correct but misspelled. Award one point if the selection title is correct but misspelled. Award no points for incorrect or unanswered items.
  - (B) In the 5th/6th-grade contest, award two points for the correct major work, if required, and two points for the correct selection. Award one point if the major work is correct but misspelled. Award one point if the selection title is correct but misspelled. Award two points for the correct composer. Award one point if the composer's name is correct but misspelled. In the 5th/6th-grade tie-breaking portion of the contest, the same scoring method shall be used. Award no points for incorrect or unanswered items.
- (4) *Ranking Teams.* Scores of all members who participated on the team should be added and divided by the number of team members. A team shall have at least three contestants to participate in the team competition.
- (5) *Points.* Individual points are awarded through sixth place. Team points are awarded through third place. See 1408 (i).



## FAQs about Rules

### What contest personnel are needed?

- *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director. The contest director may be the coach of a participating student.
- *Judges.* At least three graders should be familiar with the instructions for grading and the contest rules. The contest director may recruit more than three graders.

### What contest materials are necessary?

- *Provided by UIL:*
  - Matching test for the third/fourth grades and answer sheet for the fifth/sixth grades.
  - The League provides the official list of selections at the beginning of each school year.
  - Audio CD
  - Contest rosters
- *Provided by the Host School-* Sound equipment to play audio material. The contest room should be appropriate for an event which requires contestants to listen to and identify recorded music.
- *Provided by the School or Student.* Pens, pencils and/or erasers.
- *Other.* No other materials or notes may be used in the contest.

### How are divisions laid out?

This contest will consist of two divisions (third/fourth and fifth/sixth) unless the district executive committee approves separate divisions for each grade.

### How long does the contest last?

Allow approximately 20 seconds of listening time for each of the 16 music segments and the four tie-breaking segments, and at least one minute between each selection for writing.

**Note:**  
**Each element of an answer is worth two points, with one point deducted for misspelling.**



Visit the [A+ section of the UIL website](#) to download the current year's Official Music Memory List (names of the pieces with links to purchase music), including pilot grade levels, and to find information about study materials. **Note: The UIL does not own rights to music selections; therefore, selections are not available for download or purchase through UIL. The UIL website provides information on how to acquire the music selections.**

Hughes



**Music Memory 2016-2017  
OFFICIAL LIST**

***Highlighted selections will make up the list for Grade 2 (pilot)***

	<b>Composer</b>	<b>Major Work</b>	<b>Selection</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	Bach	Orchestral Suite No. 2	Badinerie	
2	Bartók	Hungarian Sketches	Bear Dance	<i>Orchestral version</i>
3	Beethoven	Piano Sonata No. 8, "Pathétique"	Movement 3	
4	Brahms		Waltz in A-Flat Major	
5	Clarke		The Prince of Denmark's March	
6	Delibes	Lakmé	Flower Duet	
7	des Prez		El Grillo	
8	Ginastera	Estancia Suite	Malambo	
9	Haydn	Symphony No. 94, "Surprise"	Movement 2	
10	Mozart	Così fan tutte	Overture	
11	Puccini	La Bohème	Aranci, datteri	
12	Reed	Armenian Dances (Part 1)	Gna, Gna (Go, Go)	
13	J. Strauss, Sr.		Radetzky March	
14	Tchaikovsky	Sleeping Beauty	Waltz	
15	Walton	Belshazzar's Feast	Thus in Babylon	
16	Williams	Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope	Cantina Band	

**ADDITIONAL SELECTIONS FOR GRADES 7-8 (PILOT; DISTRICTS MAY ALSO INCLUDE GRADE 6 IN THIS CATEGORY)**

17	Gershwin		Rhapsody in Blue	
18	Mussorgsky		Night on Bald Mountain	
19	Schubert		Der Erlkönig	
20	Sibelius		Finlandia, Op. 26	

# UIL A+ Music Memory 2015-2016

## 2nd Grade PILOT Sample Test

Contestant Number \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:**

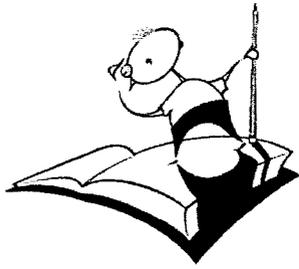
**Step One:** Write the composer name from the Word Bank in the blank after each Selection title. Use each composer once.

**Step Two:** Listen to the music excerpt and place the correct number in the blank before the Selection title.

Listening Number	Selection Title (Major Works in bold)	Composer
	The Entertainer	_____
	<b>Solomon</b> : The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba	_____
	Commando March	_____
	<b>West Side Story</b> : Dance at the Gym (Mambo)	_____
	<b>Toccata and Fugue in d minor</b> : Toccata	_____
	<b>Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral"</b> : Movement 3	_____
	<b>The Creation</b> : The Heavens Are Telling	_____
	Sing, Sing, Sing	_____
	<b>Horn Concerto No. 2</b> : Movement 3	_____
	<b>The Barber of Seville</b> : Largo al factotum	_____

### Composer Word Bank

Bach	Barber	Beethoven	Bernstein	Handel
Haydn	Joplin	Mozart	Prima	Rossini



# Creative Writing

Creative writing is designed to promote creativity in an academic format and to encourage writing skills at an early grade level. Through preparation for the contest, students will be able to evaluate their own writing and the writing of others.

## Section 1418: CREATIVE WRITING

### (a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) **Summary.** This contest is designed to promote creativity in an academic format and to encourage writing skills at an early grade level. Through preparation for the contest, students will be able to evaluate their own writing and the writing of others.
- (2) **Contest Format.** Contestants will be given a prompt with several captioned pictures. From these pictures, the students will create an original story based on their selections. The stories shall contain at least one of the pictured items, but it is not required that all items on the page be included. Thirty minutes will be allotted for writing exclusive of time required for instructions.

### (b) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) **Contestants.** Students in the second grade who are eligible under Section 1405 may enter this contest.

- (2) **Divisions.** This contest will consist of only one division.
- (3) **Individual Competition.** Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants in the district meet.
- (4) **Team Competition.** There is no team competition in creative writing.

### (c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

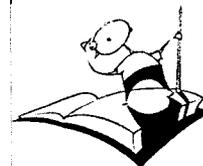
- (1) **Personnel.** The contest director may be the coach of a participating student.
- (2) **Viewing Period.** An optional period not to exceed 15 minutes may be arranged for coaches and contestants to review their own evaluations, stories and verify identification.
- (3) **Official Results.** After the viewing period has ended and all contest papers have been collected, the contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (4) **Returning Materials.** No materials from the district contests may be returned to contestants prior to official release dates.

**Creative  
Writing =  
2nd Grade**

## Contest Administration Rules

- (1) **Number Contestants.** As roll is called, instruct contestants to place their assigned contestant number in the upper right-hand corner of each blank page. Coaches may assist contestants in this process prior to the contest.
- (2) **Clear Room.** Contestants and coaches should be informed of the time and place of a viewing period, if one is scheduled. Spectators and coaches not assigned a specific duty in administering the contest should be dismissed from the contest room before the contest begins.
- (3) **Distribute Prompts.** Place prompt sheets on the desk in front of each contestant. Read aloud the captions under each picture and the instructions for writing a story. Contestants may use the instruction and prompt pages for notes or ideas. Give students the signal to begin.
- (4) **Signal to Stop.** At the end of 25 minutes, give a 5-minute warning. At the end of 30 minutes, give a stop signal and ask contestants to put their pencils down. Collect all prompts and contestant papers.

# Judging/Scoring Rules



Creative Writin

- (1) *Briefing Judges.* Prior to the contest the director should discuss thoroughly with judges the criteria for evaluating the stories.
- (2) *Criteria for Judging.*
  - (A) The stories are evaluated as to relative excellence in creativity (60%), organization (30%) and grammatical correctness of style (10%).
  - (B) Interest depends primarily upon substance. It depends next upon clarity and upon including specific details and examples which individualize the story as an outgrowth of the writer's character and experience.
  - (C) A well-organized story will present ideas in a logical and coherent manner.
  - (D) Grammatical correctness of style includes avoiding errors in sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, spelling and word usage.
- (3) *Ranking Stories.* Judges shall read the stories and, without marking on the papers, shall rank them in the order of their excellence: 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. The judges should discuss the stories contending for a rank and may alter their decisions as a result of the discussion. Judges are to reach a consensus on the rankings.
- (4) *Ties.* There can be no ties in this contest.
- (5) *Preparing Evaluation Sheets.* Judges shall prepare comments on the Creative Writing Evaluation Sheets for each entry. Comments should reflect the UIL philosophy of judging. Identify and comment first on the positive aspects of the story, then offer constructive criticism. Comments need not be long, but they should be specific rather than general.
- (6) *Points.* Points are awarded through sixth place. See Section 1408 (i).

## FAQs about Rules

### What contest personnel are needed?

- *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director. The contest director may be the coach of a participating student.
- *Judges (Graders).* A single or an odd number of judges should be familiar with the instructions for grading and the contest rules. They should be qualified and impartial. Judge(s) may not be coaches of participating students. The contest director may recruit as many judges as necessary.

### What contest materials are necessary?

- *Provided by UIL-* Prompts and evaluation sheets, contest rosters, judges' ballots, instruction sheet for judges
  - These materials will be provided to schools submitting the appropriate requisitions. See Section 1408 (c) and (e) for the dates when invitational materials and district materials will be available.
- *Provided by the Host School-* Blank paper
- *Provided by the School or student-* Pens, pencils and/or erasers
- *Other-* No other materials or notes may be used in the contest

### How long does the contest last?

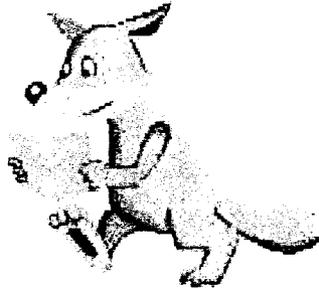
Allow 30 minutes for students to create and write stories.

### How many sets of materials are available?

The League will make available one test for invitational meets, one test for fall/winter districts meets and one test for spring district meets.

**The contest has no minimum word length.**

# Oral Reading



Reading literature out loud provides opportunities for students to analyze the text, to grow and to develop as a performer, to communicate a message to an audience and to perform an artistic creation. The oral reading competition should be an extension of the classroom literary and language arts activities in poetry, short stories and children's fiction. See the UIL web site for frequently asked questions about oral reading.

## Section 1458: ORAL READING

### (a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) Summary. Reading a text out loud serves four purposes: to analyze the text as a literary critic; to grow and to develop as a performer; to communicate a message to an audience; and to perform an artistic creation. All of these apply to the Oral Reading competition, which should be an extension of the classroom literary and language arts activities in poetry, short stories and children's fiction.
- (2) Contest Format. Requirements for acceptable selections shall be as specified in official contest procedures. The maximum time for each presentation is six minutes. There is no minimum time limit. Students who exceed the allotted five minutes shall be penalized one rank. For example, if the judges rank a student second who has gone overtime, that student shall be assigned third place and the student who was ranked third will be given second place. Contestants may not use costumes or props in the contest. No speaker may be coached or prompted in any manner during the presentation. Audiences are permitted.

### (b) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) Contestants. Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Sections 1400 and 1405 may enter this contest at the district meet. Eligible ninth grade students may also enter oral reading. At the district meet, students in grades four through eight may enter no more than two speech events. Ninth grade students are limited by the requirements in Section 1000 (b).
- (2) Divisions. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.
- (3) Individual Competition. Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants per division in the district meet.
- (4) Team Competition. There is no team competition in this contest.

### (c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

- (1) Personnel. The contest director may be the coach of a participating student. A timekeeper should be provided for each section. Contest officials should select one judge or an odd-numbered panel of judges for each section. Judges shall not be coaches of participating students. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.
- (2) Sections. A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter a division of oral reading, they shall be divided into sections according to official contest procedures. Winners from the preliminary rounds will compete in a final round.
- (3) Rankings, Ties and Points. Contestants shall be ranked as specified in official contest procedures. There can be no ties in this contest. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).
- (4) Verification Period. If a panel of judges is used, a verification period shall be provided, during which unofficial results should be posted. Coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to verify that tabulation of rankings is correct. The decisions of the judges are not subject to question. Evaluation sheets may be viewed by contestants and coaches during the verification period and shall be returned to the contest director at the end of the verification period. For rounds with single judges, a 15-minute viewing period is recommended.
- (5) Official Results. The contest director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (6) Returning Materials. No confidential materials are used in this contest. Therefore, evaluation sheets may be returned to contestants at the conclusion of the contest.

**At the district meets, students may enter a maximum of two of the following speaking events:**  
 \* Impromptu Speaking  
 \* Modern Oratory  
 \* Oral Reading

**Oral Reading grade level divisions= 4-6 and 7-9**

# Contest Administration Rules



## Oral Reading

- (1) *Speaker Order.* Contestants may be assigned to sections and speaker order may be established prior to the day of the meet. If the contest director prefers, the contestants in each preliminary section may draw for speaker order just before the contest begins.
- (2) *No Cheering.* Audiences are permitted. Cheering should not be permitted during a contestant's presentation, and the contest director shall see that this rule is strictly enforced.
- (3) *No Coaching.* No speaker may be coached or prompted in any manner during the delivery of the selection.
- (4) *Selecting Material.* The League office does not prescribe a list of poetry or prose selections for oral reading. However, the *A+ Handbook* contains helpful information about selecting appropriate material. Selections used by contestants should not offend the moral standards of the community nor be in bad taste. Plays or speeches may not be used as selections. Coaches should revise or reject all selections that in any way fail to meet these qualifications.
- (5) *Manuscripts.* Contestants shall read their selection from a manuscript. It is suggested that the selection be held in a simple, dark-colored folder or small notebook that does not draw attention to itself. The manuscript must be in printed form; electronic devices are not allowed in Oral Reading.
- (6) *Introductions.* An introduction is not required but is permitted. The introduction shall be delivered within the time limit. The main emphasis should be on the individual selection or selections of prose or poetry.
- (7) *Style and Delivery.* Contestants may not use costumes or props in the contest. Responsive use of the body (i.e. spontaneous changes in posture, gestures and place-to-place movement) is permissible. However, this active use of the body should:
  - (A) be appropriate to the demands of the selection;
  - (B) be a natural outgrowth from the literature to be performed; and
  - (C) be limited in scope.

\*The judge's opinion in this matter is final. Coaches are encouraged to prepare contestants for the fact that judges will apply their own opinions to what they value in style and delivery and these opinions will vary from judge to judge.

## Judging/Scoring Rules

- (1) *Briefing Judges.* Prior to the contest, judges should become familiar with the oral reading evaluation sheet and the standards for style and delivery.
- (2) *Criteria.* The evaluation sheet will include sections for commentary on understanding of the text, control of the performance, appropriateness of the selection, how well the performer prepared the audience and made the meaning of the selection clear as well as the quality of the performance including portrayal of the characters and how well the performer captured and communicated the essence of the literary work.
- (3) *Length of Readings.* Students who go over the allotted six minutes shall be penalized one rank. For example, if the judges rank a student second who has gone over the time limit, that student shall be assigned third place and the student who was ranked third will be given second place. Because contestants of many ages participate in this activity, and because coaches are encouraged to choose selections of lengths which are suited to the ages of the contestants, there is no minimum time limit.
- (4) *Questions.* Questions should be made to the contest director before the decision of the judges is announced as official. The decisions of the contest directors and/or meet officials on these matters are final.
- (5) *Ranking the Contestants.* If a panel of judges is used, the contest director shall tabulate all judges' ranks to determine places. See 1003 (b).



## Oral Reading

See pages  
18-21 for  
instructions on  
creating  
preliminary  
sections and  
determining  
ranks.

# FAQs about Rules

## **What are the duties of the contest director, timekeeper, and judges?**

- *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director.
- *Timekeeper.* A timekeeper should be provided for each contest to notify the contestant of the amount of time remaining from the total allotted time. The timekeeper should demonstrate to the contestant the type of time signals to be used. While the timekeeper may use either hand signals or timecards to indicate to the speaker the remaining time, time cards are a much preferred method of signal.
- *Judges.* Prior to the contest, judges should become familiar with the oral reading evaluation sheet and the standards for style and delivery. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.

## **What contest materials are necessary?**

- *Provided by UIL-* Evaluation sheets, Judges' Ballots, Contest Director's Ranking Sheet for a panel of judges, Contest rosters
  - These materials will be provided to schools submitting the appropriate requisitions. See Section 1408 (c) and (e) for the dates when invitational materials and district materials will be available.
- *Provided by the Student-* Literature to be performed in appropriate notebook
- *Other-* No other materials or notes may be used in the contest

## **What do students read for the contest?**

- *Grades 4, 5 and 6.* Students shall have a maximum of six minutes to read a selection of poetry. Each selection may be one poem, a cutting of a poem or a combination of poems. The same selection may be read in all rounds, but different selections are permissible. Selections shall be published although the poet may be unknown or anonymous. The maximum time for each presentation is six minutes. There is no minimum time limit.
- *Grades 7, 8 and 9.* Students shall have a maximum of six minutes to read selections of prose or poetry according to the following schedule.
  - 2016-17 – prose
  - 2017-18 – poetry
  - 2018-19 – prose
- Each may be a single reading, a cutting from a longer selection or a combination of several selections. The same selection may be read in all rounds, but different selections are permissible. Selections shall be published although the author may be unknown or anonymous. Prose readings may include fables, yarns, tales, science fiction, fantasy, mysteries, etc. Selections may be fiction or nonfiction. The maximum time for each presentation is six minutes. There is no minimum time limit.

## **How are contest divisions decided?**

This contest will consist of two divisions unless the district executive committee approves separate divisions for each grade.

## **May districts create smaller sections?**

Yes, they may when space permits. A separate room is needed for each preliminary section.



# Storytelling

To tell a story, the participant must develop skills in listening, thinking and speaking. This contest also allows for the development of creative expression, something being given more attention in the professional world. For practice, teachers can use stories from any good children's books or magazines.

## Section 1474: STORYTELLING

### (a) THE CONTEST.

- (1) Summary. To tell a story, the participant should develop skills in listening, thinking and speaking. This contest also allows for the development of creative expression. For practice, teachers can use stories from any good children's books or magazines.
- (2) Contest Format. Contestants shall listen to a storyteller read a brief story (between 600 and 1100 words long) only once, and then retell that story in their own words before a judge or judges. Contestants shall not use costumes or props in the contest. No materials or notes may be used during the presentation. There is no minimum or maximum time limit for the presentation. Contestants may not receive prompting of the story plot or details. Audiences are permitted to hear contestants tell their stories.

### (b) REPRESENTATION.

- (1) Contestants. Students in officially prescribed grade levels below 9th grade who are eligible under Section 1400 or 1405 may enter this contest.
- (2) Divisions. Districts shall offer either a separate division for each participating grade level or combined grade level divisions as specified in official contest procedures.
- (3) Individual Competition. Each participant school may enter as many as three contestants per division in the district meet.
- (4) Team Competition. There is no team competition in this contest.

### (c) CONTEST ADMINISTRATION.

- (1) Personnel. The contest director may be the coach of a participating student. If the contest director is not the coach of a participating student, the contest director may serve as the storyteller or may appoint a qualified person to act in this capacity. Responsibilities of the storyteller are as specified in official contest procedures. The storyteller may not be the coach of a participating student. Contest officials should select one judge or an odd-numbered panel of judges for each section.

- Judges shall not be coaches of participating students. So far as possible, judges should not know what school any contestant represents.
- (2) Sections. A section shall consist of no more than eight contestants. If nine or more students enter a division of storytelling, they shall be divided into sections according to official contest procedures. Winners from the preliminary rounds will compete in a final round.
- (3) Rankings, Ties and Points. Contestants shall be ranked as specified in official contest procedures. There can be no ties in this contest. Points are awarded as specified in Section 1408 (i).
- (4) Verification Period. If a panel of judges is used, a verification period shall be provided. Unofficial results should be posted. Coaches should be given no more than 15 minutes to verify that tabulation of rankings is correct. The rankings given by judges are not subject to question. Evaluation sheets may be viewed by contestants and coaches during the verification period and shall be returned to the contest director at the end of the verification period. For rounds with single judges, a 15-minute viewing period is recommended.
- (5) Official Results. The director shall announce the official results. Official results, once announced, are final.
- (6) Returning Materials. No confidential materials are used in this contest. Therefore, evaluation sheets may be returned to contestants at the conclusion of the contest.

Storytelling  
grade  
level  
division  
= 2/3

**You may find sample stories in  
the A+ Elementary Academic  
Study Materials Booklet  
available on the UIL Online  
Store.**

# Contest Administration Rules

- (1) *Clear Room.* Spectators and coaches not assigned a specific duty in administering the contest should be dismissed from the storytelling room before the story is read.
- (2) *Speaker Order.* Contestants may be assigned to sections and speaker order may be established prior to the day of the meet. If the contest director prefers, the contestants in each preliminary section may draw for speaker order just before the contest begins.
- (3) *Telling the Story.* Assemble contestants in a room separate from the room or rooms in which they will retell the story. The storyteller shall read the story only once to the contestants. Admit the first contestant in each preliminary section to the contest rooms to tell the story. When the first contestant has finished, admit the second one, and so on until all the contestants in each preliminary section have told their stories.
- (4) *No Prompting.* Contestants may not receive prompting of the story plot or details. Audiences are permitted to hear contestants tell their stories.

## Judging/Scoring Rules

- (1) *Briefing Judges.* The judges should be instructed to evaluate all the contestants. If possible, judges should not hear the same students in both preliminary and final rounds. The judges shall not be permitted to hear the story as it is told to the contestants. Judges will be provided a list of key plot and character elements from the story.
- (2) *Criteria.* Judges will use an evaluation sheet provided by the League defining the criteria including, but not limited to, ability of the contestant to command attention, originality, facial expressions, vocal variety, characterization, eye contact, gestures, posture, articulation and enthusiasm. Contestants should include at least one key element of the story in their presentations, and an absence of at least one key story element in the presentation should be considered by the judge when ranking contestants. The judge's decisions on this matter shall be final.
- (3) *Ranking.* Ranks shall be determined through sixth place by the director. If a panel of judges is used, the contest director shall tabulate all judges' ranks to determine places. See "Instructions for Contest Directors of Speaking Events" for more information.

## FAQs about Rules

### **May I have more information about the Contest Director and Storyteller's role?**

- *Contest Director.* The contest director will be in charge of running the contest and resolving any problems that arise. The director may appoint an assistant director.
- *Storyteller.* The contest may also be administered by playing a recording of the test material prepared by the contest director in advance of the contest. The League does not provide this recording. The storyteller may select which story provided by the League office will be used for the preliminary round and which will be used for the final round. The storyteller may not be the coach of a participating student.
- *Monitors (optional).* The monitors may be a coach of a participating student. The monitor's duty is to make certain that contestants work quietly and independently before and after their turn.

See pages  
18-21 for  
instruction  
on  
sectioning  
and ranking  
contestants

## FAQs Continued

### **What contest materials are necessary?**

- *Provided by UIL-* Evaluation sheets, Two stories (one to be used in the preliminary round and one in the final round), Judges' ballots, Contest Director's Ranking Sheet for a panel of judges, Contest rosters
  - These materials will be provided to schools submitting the appropriate requisitions. See Section 1408 (c) and (e) for the dates when invitational materials and district materials will be available.
- *Provided by the Host School-* Blank paper and pencil (optional) for use in the waiting area. Contestants may use these materials to organize their thoughts while waiting, but may not carry notes outside the waiting area.
- *Other-* No other materials or notes may be used in the contest

### **How are divisions laid out?**

This contest will consist of one division unless the district executive committee approves separate divisions for each grade.

### **How long does the contest last?**

There is no minimum or maximum limit on the presentation.

### **May districts create smaller sections?**

Yes. Districts may create smaller sections when space permits. A separate room is needed for each preliminary section.

### **How many sets of materials are available?**

Two stories will be provided, one to be used in the preliminary round and one to be used in the final round. The League will make available one pair of stories for invitational meets, one pair for fall/winter district meets and one pair for spring district meets.