

# HOUSTONFEST

## Prose Reading

### Critique Sheet – VIRTUAL EVENT

#### INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES

Please read the “Instructions to Judges” provided to you.

#### **RULES – This is a “virtual event.”**

Entry Limit: 3 contestants per level, per school (Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Length and Time Limits:

Level 1: 16-24 lines **OR** 1-2 minutes

Level 2: 20-32 lines **OR** 1.5-2.5 minutes

Levels 3 & 4: 24-46 lines **OR** 2-3 minutes

The selection must be by a German-speaking author, i.e., originally published in German. It may not be a translation from a non-German-speaking author, even if it has been published, but it may be by a non-German who writes in German, e.g., Kishon. Poems may be edited to fit time or line limits (see above). Prose Reading is judged on the basis of reading and not on any interpretation by the contestant, other than the use of voice changes, eye contact, facial expressions, and some use of hands. No props or costumes may be used. The contestant may not walk around. The title of the selection and the author must be listed along with the name of the student performing it on the alphabetical student list at the time of registration. Prose Reading selections may not be used as Prose Memory selections or vice versa by the same person.

#### **Submission Process:**

1. Record yourself reading the selection (or have someone else record you). Don't forget to say the title and author. You may do as many “takes” as you want until you're satisfied with the result, but the submitted recording must be a single continuous unedited take, not a spliced-together compilation of the best parts of multiple takes.
2. Upload the video of your reading to YouTube or Vimeo.
3. Create a single Word document or Google Doc, etc. with the **full text of the selection**, including **title** and **author**. To get the text of your reading selection into the document, you can cut and paste it if you have access to an electronic version of the piece or simply take a (clear!) picture or pictures of the text if you are working from a hard copy and paste the picture(s) into the document.
4. Include a title page with **your name, your school, the name and level of the event**, e.g., “Prose Reading 2,” and a **hyperlink to your YouTube/Vimeo recording**. If you are concerned about privacy and want to password-protect your video, include the password with the hyperlink in the document.
5. Convert this document to a PDF file and upload it according to the instructions provided. Do NOT upload the video itself; the judges will access your video via the link that you include in the PDF.

**See page 2 for Judging Criteria.**

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Contestant: \_\_\_\_\_ Circle level: 1 2 3 4

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of selection: \_\_\_\_\_ Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

#### CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

1. **Selection and preparation:** The selection is interesting and at the appropriate difficulty level. (0-20 points)
2. **Pronunciation:** The contestant's pronunciation of the German language is correct and understandable; the intonation is characteristically German. (0-20 points)
3. **Control of form, voice, and diction:** Enunciation is distinct without being pedantic; the voice is clear and the contestant avoids monotone; the contestant maintains a balance between thought and rhythm, i.e., word groupings and pauses are handled meaningfully. (0-20 points)
4. **Insight and understanding:** The contestant reflects the mood and the meaning of the selection. (0-20 points)
5. **Posture:** The contestant is poised and avoids distracting and *unmotivated* movements while making at least occasional eye contact with the audience and perhaps using appropriate facial expressions and hand movements. (0-20 points)

**TOTAL POINTS:** (100 possible) \_\_\_\_\_

#### MORE COMMENTS TO HELP THE CONTESTANT