



# Oral Interpretation/ Dramatic Reading

Definition - One person reads a work of literature aloud, using his or her voice, facial expressions, and gestures to convey the words and their meaning to the audience.

Follow these steps to prepare your oral interpretation:

1. Read the work of literature at least twice, either by yourself or aloud with a group. During your second reading, think about how to present the work, and jot down your ideas.
2. Prepare a script. Add marks to guide you in your reading. For example, you can underline a word or phrase as a reminder to emphasize it and use a slash (/) as a signal to pause.

Even if you are reading words written by someone else, it is up to you to bring those words to life through your presentation.

Ask yourself: How much meaning am I communicating through my **tone** of voice, **facial expressions**, and **gestures** alone? These signals should tell your audience whether you are asking a question or making a statement and whether the work of literature is funny, scary, or sad.

Try speaking twice as slowly and twice as loudly as you normally would, making your pauses twice as long and your gestures and expressions twice as forceful, putting twice as much feeling into each word. (If you think you might be overdoing it, ask someone to observe a rehearsal and comment on your reading.) Don't be afraid to be "bigger than life." You want everyone in your audience to get your message, even people in the back of the room.

Make sure you look at your audience, not at the floor or paper.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ section \_\_\_\_\_ assigned part # \_\_\_\_\_

## Oral Interpretation

### The Tell-Tale Heart

\_\_\_\_\_/20

2	1	0
Reading script was well marked to indicate changes in volume, tone, rate, and dramatic gestures	Reading script was adequately marked to indicate changes in volume, tone, rate, and dramatic gestures	Reading script was not marked to indicate changes in volume, tone, rate, and dramatic gestures
Excellent job adjusting volume	Good job adjusting volume	Did not adjust volume
Excellent job adjusting tone	Good job adjusting tone	Did not adjust tone
Excellent job adjusting rate	Good job adjusting rate	Did not adjust rate
Excellent use of pauses to add dramatic effect	Good use of pauses to add dramatic effect	Did not pause at appropriate times
Had 0-1 mispronunciation(s)	Pronounced 2-3 words incorrectly	Pronounced more than three words incorrectly
Excellent articulation of words	Good articulation of words	Did not articulate
Excellent use of dynamic hand gestures and facial expressions to create an overall impression	Good use of dynamic hand gestures and facial expressions to create an overall impression	Did not use dynamic hand gestures and facial expressions to create an overall impression
Excellent eye contact	Good eye contact	No eye contact
Read with excellent fluency.	Read with good fluency.	Read with little to no fluency.