History of Poetry and Prose Categories

2010 – 2013 Poetry Categories
A. **A New Voice in Poetry.** Explores contemporary poetry; Perform a published poem, multiple poems or excerpts of poems - no more than 6 - written by one poet born 1960 or after. Poetry can be woven.
B. **My Voice Through Poetry.** Perform a theme-centered program using at least 2 poems by at least two poets. No more than 6 poems. May be woven. No anonymous.

2010 – 2013 Prose Categories
A. **Generation X, Y and Beyond.** Perform a single prose selection by one author born in 1960 or after.
B. **In the News.** Perform a single prose selection or program of prose related to a significant news story – fiction or nonfiction, written by one author or a collaborative work by 2 or more authors. Can be woven but no more than 4 prose selections used.

2007 – 2010 Poetry Categories
A. **Exploring Excellence in Poetry.** Perform a published poem, multiple poems, or excerpts of poems, written by an award-winning poet. Approved award list designated.
B. **Exploring Poetry.** Perform a single poem or excerpt of a poem by one poet; or perform a thematic collection of up to six poems by one or more poets. The thematic collection may be woven or it may incorporate transitions without weaving.

2007 – 2010 Prose Categories
A. **Exploring the Southern Experience.** Author shall be born in one of the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia.
B. **Exploring Prose Fiction.** Piece of prose fiction and the literary work may be written by a single author or be a collaborative work by two or more authors.

2004 – 2007 Poetry Categories
A. **American Reflections.** Thematic program of two or more published poems by one or more poets, exploring a specific historical event that has influenced the US.
B. **Twentieth Century Reflections.** Published poem or poems or excerpt of poems all written by a single poet born in or after 1900.

2004 – 2007 Prose Categories
A. **True Reflections: Non-Fiction.** Work by single or collaborative author(s) published from: biographies, autobiographies, diaries, journals, letters, essays or memoirs. The goal is to examine experiences of real people in real events.
B. **Contemporary Reflections.** Selection that has been honored as an American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults from 1996 to present.

2001 – 2004 Poetry Categories
A. **Celebrate the Poem.** Perform either one published poem, or an excerpt from only one published poem.
B. **Celebrate the Poet.** Perform two or more poems, or two or more portions of poems, by one author.

2001 – 2004 Prose Categories
A. **Celebrate Non-Fiction: First-Person Narratives.** Piece from first person point of view drawn from either: memoirs, autobiographies, letters, diaries, journals, or essays.
B. **Celebrate Fiction.** Work of fiction, may be drawn from a novel, novella, novelette or short story.
1998 – 2001 Poetry Categories
A. **Voices Beyond the Americas.** Perform a poem (or poems) by one poet from outside the Americas.
B. **Diversity and Human Experience.** Perform two or more published poems by one or more poets to present awareness or social realities.

1998 – 2001 Prose categories
A. **Celebrating Authors of the Southwest.** Perform piece by author born in Southwestern United States, SW includes: Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, California, Nevada, and Utah.
B. **Performer’s Choice.** One selection, fiction or non fiction; a co-authored work is permissible if each author is specifically identified.

1995 – 1998 Poetry Categories
A. **Voices of the Americas.** Perform a published poem by one poets from the Americas (Countries within N. America, Central America, and S. America)
B. **Performer’s Program.** Perform two or more published poems by one or more poets.

1995 – 1998 Prose Categories
A. **Award-Winning Writer.** Perform a work written by an author who has been the recipient of a literary award or prize.
B. **Performer’s choice.** Perform a published work, fiction or non-fiction.

A. **Poets born outside the US and its Territories.** Biographic info showing the birthplace of the writer must accompany each selection.
B. **A Thematic Program.** Perform two or more poems or portions of poems by different authors; should all have a central principal.

A. **World Literature.** Authors born outside the US. Biographic info showing the birthplace of the writer must accompany each selection.
B. **An American Experience.** Authors born within the U, piece about American people and experiences.

1992 – 1993 Poetry categories
A. **Ports born outside the US.** Performance of a poems or poems by one poet born outside the US.
B. **A Thematic Program.** Perform two or more poems or portions of poems by different authors, should all have a central principal.

1992 – 1993 Prose Categories
A. **Authors born outside the US.** Can be fiction or non-fiction.
B. **Authors born within the US.** Can be fiction or non-fiction.

1990 – 1992 Poetry Categories
A. **Performer’s Choice.** Contestant will perform one published poem.
B. **Poet-Centered Program.** A student can choose any poet and perform at least three poems, or portions of poems, by that one poet.

1990 – 1992 Prose Categories
A. **Works by 20th Century Writers.** Fiction or non-fiction piece by an author born during or after 1990.
B. **Works by 19th Century Writers.** Fiction or non-fiction piece by an author born in or between 1800 and 1899.
1987 – 1990 Poetry Categories
A. **Pulitzer Prize-Winning Poets.** Selections are not limited to the collection named for the prize; if an author has one, a contestant can perform any piece by that author.
B. **Performer’s Choice.** Contestant can perform any published poem.
C. **A Poet-Centered Program.** A student can choose any poet and perform at least three poems, or portions of poems, by that one poet.

1987 – 1990 Prose Categories
A. **Pulitzer Prize Winning Fiction Winners.** Selections are not limited to the collection named for the prize; if an author has one, a contestant can perform any piece by that author.
B. **Works by 20th Century Women.** Can be fiction or non-fiction, written by a woman born during or after the year 1900. (In 1990 cat. Changed to both men/women authors)
C. **Works by a 19th Century Man.** Can be fiction or non-fiction, written by a man born in or between the years of 1800 and 1989. (In 1990 cat. Changed to both men/women authors)

1984 – 1987 Poetry Categories
A. **Poet Born Before 1800.** Must be a published poem or number of poems written by a single author born before 1800.
B. **Poet Born After 1920.** Selection must be a published poem or number of poems written by a single author born before 1920.
C. Must be a program of at least three published poems, or cutting of poems, each by a different poet, which are developed around a central theme.

1984 – 1987 Prose Categories
A. **Fiction- Cutting from a Novel.** A novel is defined as a book length work of prose.
B. **Celebrating the Sesquicentennial Texas in Fact, Fiction and Folklore.** Selection must be a published work of prose that is about Texas people, places, or things OR is written by a native Texan.
C. **Non-Fiction Prose.** Should be from either: essays, articles, journals, editorials, letters, diaries, biographies and autobiographies.

1981 – 1984 Poetry Categories
A. **Narrative poetry or Dramatic Monologue.** Purpose of the Narrative poetry is to tell a story, and the purpose of the dramatic monologue is to develop characterization in first person.
B. **Lyric poetry.** Primary purpose of this is to appeal to the emotions or senses.
C. **Program of Poetry Selections.** Equal balance of at least three poems or cutting of poems.

1981 – 1984 Prose Categories
A. **Cutting of a Novel.** A novel is defined as a book length work of prose fiction.
B. **Twentieth Century Short Stories.** A short story is defined as a brief fictional narrative in prose.
C. **Humorous Essays.** This category should be viewed as an open category for humorous essays.

1979 – 1981 Poetry Interpretation Categories
A. **United States. Poets from the US.** Choose from a list of 20 American Poets.
B. **International. Poets from across the world.** Can choose from a list out of 20 International poets.
C. **Must be a program of poetry selections.** Must consist of at least three poems and/or cuttings of the poems. Cannot any poets listed in categories A or B.
1979 – 1981 Prose Interpretation Categories
A. United States. Authors from the US. Can choose from a list out of 20 American authors.
B. International. Authors from across the world. Can choose from a list out of 20 International authors.
C. Legends, Myths, Fables, & Tales. Any piece from an author who may be referenced as author, editor, or compiler. (In 1981 changed category where students choose from list of 24 authors)

1974 – 1979 Prose Categories
B. Modern American Short Stories IV. From the list: James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, Roland R. Hinojosa, William Melvin Kelley, John Jacob Matthews, N. Scott Momoday, Estela Portillo, Thomas Rivera. Jean Toomer, Sabine R. Ulivarri

1976 — 1979 Poetry Categories
A. Modern Commonwealth Poets III. From the list of authors: James Baxter, Allen Curnow, Kamala Das, Joe de Graaf, William Keoapetse, Kgostitsile, Abraham Moses Klein, David Malouf, Mahapatra Jayanta, P’Bitek Okot, Derek Wolcott
B. Modern American Poets VI. From the same list of author from MAP V.
C. Modern Latin American Poets II. From the list of authors: Homero Aridjis. Carlos Drummond de Andrade, David Escobar Galinda, Isabel Frairie, Alberto Girri, Carlos Isola, Henriquetta Lisboa, Nicanor Parra, Jaime Torres Bodet, Cesar Vallejo

1974 —1976 Poetry Categories
A. Modern American Poets V. From the list: Alurista, Nikki Giovanni, Etheridge Knight, Don L. Lee, Clarence Major, Alex Posey, Ricardo Sanchez, Sonia Sanchez, Gerald Vizenor, James Welch.

1967 – 1974 Poetry Categories
B. Modern American poets II. From the list: Gwenolyn Brooks, Donald Hall, Randall Jarrell, Denise Levertov, Ogden Nash, Kenneth Patchen, Muriel Ruykeyser, Ann Sexton, William Stafford, or Reed Whittemore.
C. Modern European Poets I. From the list: Gottfried Benn, Gunnar Ekelof, Gunter Grass, Alberto de Lacerda, Jules Supervielle, Salvatore Quasimodo, Ranier Maria Rilke, St. John Perse, Giorgos Seferiades, or Eugenio Montale.
1967 – 1974 Prose Categories
A. Modern American Short Stories II. From the list: Saul Bellow, John Cheever, Carson McCullars, Bernard Mallamund, Joyce Carol Oates, Flannery O’Connor, Dorothy Parker, Reynolds Price, Jean Stafford, or Richard Wright.
B. Modern Common Wealth Short Stories I. From the list: China Achebe. Morley Callaghan, Cyprian Eke ski, Graham Greene, High Hood, V.S. Naipaul, James, Nugget, Frank O’Connor, Hal Porter, or Patrick White.
C. Modern Latin American Short Stories I. From the list: Jorge Luis Borges, Enrique del Campo, Verna Carleton Millau, Julio Cortazar, Jose Donoso, Mariano Latorre, Edwardo Mallea, Horacio Quirogo, Juan Rulfo, Arturo Uslar Pietri.

1964 – 1967 Poetry Categories
A. Works by selected poets (list) including: Conrad Aiken, Louis Mac Neice, and Sarah Teasdale. Or William Carlos Williams.
B. Works by selected poets (list) including: Joaquin Miller, Edwin Markham, Sidney Lanier, Walt Whitman, Edgar Lee Masters, and Louis Untermeyer.

1964 – 1967 Prose Categories
A. Public Address. Selection will come from any serious, significant public speech.
B. Published fiction work.
C. Written Commentary. Including: editorials, syndicated columns, formals essays, and those with reasoned appeals, and radio and TV commentary.

1955 – 1964 Poetry categories
A. A prepared selection. Poem may be complete, cut, or several short poems.
B. An Extemporaneous selection. Drawn from several selections, students will choose one poem 30 minutes prior to competing

Earlier “Declamation” categories:
General Field of Good Citizenship
The requirement may be fulfilled by a selection dealing with:
1. Noted events or characters in the shaping of American history
2. Fundamental qualities or virtues of good citizenship
3. Texas heroes, history and progress
4. Present-day public questions or issues

The C&CR noted: Each declamation shall consist of a prose selection from some standard author or well-known speaker. The subject matter of each selection shall be prevailingly serious in tone, and delivered for the purpose of convincing or persuading the audience of certain ideas or truths; in other words, a declamation should not be chosen which is primarily adapted to the purposes of mere entertainment.

The subjects to be used are intended to lead the students to study the problems of our American system of government and to incite in speakers and hearers aspirations toward a better citizenship. Poetic quotations may be included in a prose selection, provided the selection as a whole contains more prose than poetry. Humor may be included, but purely “funny” pieces, dramatic readings and impersonations will not be allowed.

The purpose of these contests is to train pupils as public speakers and not as dramatic readers or mere entertainers.