

Thematic Interpretation

a program of oral interp



Purpose

Thematic Interp introduces students to a variety of literary styles and performance opportunities. It is a seven minute performance composed of at least three different selections.

Selections

Material may be taken from plays, poems, novels, short stories, children’s literature, movie scripts, song lyrics and essays. Titles and authors should be clearly communicated within an introduction or prior to each individual piece.

Organization

The TI program should be creative, cohesive, and based upon a specific theme. The audience should experience a clear and complete development of purpose from beginning to end. In entertaining and enlightening the audience, the performer’s journey should include plenty of variety and surprise.

Style

It is important to use both humor and drama when creating the program. It should not be all serious or all funny. Both elements are encouraged in order to exhibit a broad spectrum of human experience and emotion.

Delivery

TI is a “little black book” event and will look similar to poetry. The use of character voices, physical blocking, and emotional realism will develop the program’s effectiveness. Splicing the program material allows for emotional transitions and creative book work.

Evaluation

Scoring and ranking will be based on the quality of the literature, the skill of interpretation, and how effectively the theme is developed and communicated.

Potential Programs

- “Dreams”
 - A Dream Deferred - L. Hughes
 - Walter Mitty - J. Thurber
 - Death of a Salesman - A. Miller

- “The Unfairness of Life”
 - Legally Blonde - K. McCullah
 - The Kryptonite Kid - J. Torchia
 - Dancing at Lughnasa - B. Friel

- “Sibling Loss”
 - The Bible, Abridged – A. Tichenor
 - My Sister’s Keeper - J. Picoult
 - Lenz - S. O’Connell
 - A Soft Spot - M. Wiseapape

- “Fate”
 - Can’t Hardly Wait - H. Elfont
 - Star Vehicle - Ai
 - Medea Redux - N. LaBute
 - The Bald Soprano - E. Ionesco

- “The Biological Clock”
 - Sleeping Beauty - L. Klavan
 - Daughter - N. Blackman
 - My Name Is Alice - J. Micklin
 - The Best of Betty - J. Willet
 - Menopause The Musical - J. Linder

Sample Arrangements

- “The Dangers of Keeping Silent”
 - Prose - Don’t Encourage Him
 - Poem - The Psychic Detective
 - Play - The Normal Heart
 - Introduction
 - Play - The Normal Heart
 - Prose - Don’t Encourage Him
 - Poem - The Psychic Detective
 - Song - Spring Awakening
 - Play - The Normal Heart
 - Prose - Don’t Encourage Him
 - Poem - The Psychic Detective

- “Stage Mothers”
 - Play - Ruthless
 - Introduction
 - Prose - Age of Consent
 - Play - Gypsy
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 - Prose - Age of Consent