

# POETRY RECITATION – FOREIGN LANGUAGE

## University of Memphis Language Fair 2026

### i GUIDELINES

- Only world language students and speakers of cognate languages may participate in this event. Native and heritage speakers may NOT participate.
  - Native Speaker** – the majority of formal education is in the target language
  - Heritage Speaker/Learner** – the majority of formal education is in English, but the target language is commonly used for communication in the home
  - Second Language Learner** – little or no experience with the target language outside of formal education
  - Cognate languages** are ones that closely relate to the language being tested, such as Portuguese speakers in Spanish contests.
- Maximum of **three (3)** entries per class.
- Students must select a poem from the choices provided by the **University of Memphis Department of World Languages and Literatures**. **These will be available on the Language Fair website, [www.memphis.edu/fair/](http://www.memphis.edu/fair/).**
- The selected poems are organized by level (I-IV).
- The poem selected must be recited from memory.
- Students participating must be currently studying the language in which the poem is written.
- On the day of the Fair, students will sign up for the order in which they will present at the room for the event. The student will also pick up a judging sheet at registration. The student must complete the top part of the form and give it to a judge of the competition before the competition begins. The judge(s) will use the form to judge the students as they perform.

### i JUDGING

CRITERIA	OUTSTANDING (4)	NOTEWORTHY (3)	FAIR (2)	POOR (1)
<b>Level-Appropriate Pronunciation</b>	Few or no errors, completely <b>comprehensible</b> .	Comprehensible, though <b>some errors</b> ; errors do not impede comprehension	<b>Adequate</b> , though errors might occasionally impede comprehension	Incomprehensible / <b>Inadequate</b>
<b>Interpretation</b>	The interpretation shows <b>unique</b> and <b>creative</b> interpretation with <b>great attention to detail</b> .	The interpretation shows <b>creative</b> interpretation with <b>attention to detail</b> .	The interpretation shows an <b>attempt at creativity</b> with <b>some attention to detail</b> .	The interpretation is <b>not creative</b> and shows <b>no attention to detail</b> .
<b>Memorization and Delivery</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING (2)</b>	<b>NOTEWORTHY (1.5)</b>	<b>FAIR (1)</b>	<b>POOR (.5)</b>
	Memorized, <b>flows naturally</b>	Memorized, with <b>little pauses</b>	Partially memorized, with <b>lengthy pauses</b>	Read, <b>not memorized</b>

If teachers have any questions about the **selected poems**, please contact [flfair@memphis.edu](mailto:flfair@memphis.edu). Judges will also determine whether the recitation has real learning value for the competitor in the event of a tie.