

About Tonight's Presentation

Every other year, our literature classes host a poetry bee in which students demonstrate their knowledge of poetry, poetics and poets. Because of time constraints last year, we greatly limited the time devoted to this part of the bee. Tonight, however, is a poetry recitation extravaganza in which the elementary classes (ages eight to eleven) will be reciting the classic poetry memorized throughout the school year. Students annually memorize at least six poems of various length as part of their language arts curriculum. Notice the variety of styles, content, language and rhythm of the poetry recited as well as the different approaches and ideas that poets had regarding the nature of poetry. To add to the recitations, three students from the English Literature and History class will impersonate poets that they have studied and read.

Memorizing poetry is a valuable teaching tool for several reasons. First, it provides the student with vocabulary in context and ideas to draw upon for thought, reflection and writing. If the material memorized is spiritual or moral in nature, it is likely to influence his affections and hopefully steer his heart towards God. Memorization also exercises the mind in a very empowering way and increases the student's ability later in life to memorize. Lastly, it provides a pattern (especially when the material is poetry) for musical rhythms, syntax and phrasing. Listen for the quoted poems in the dramatic presentations of the elementary school students.

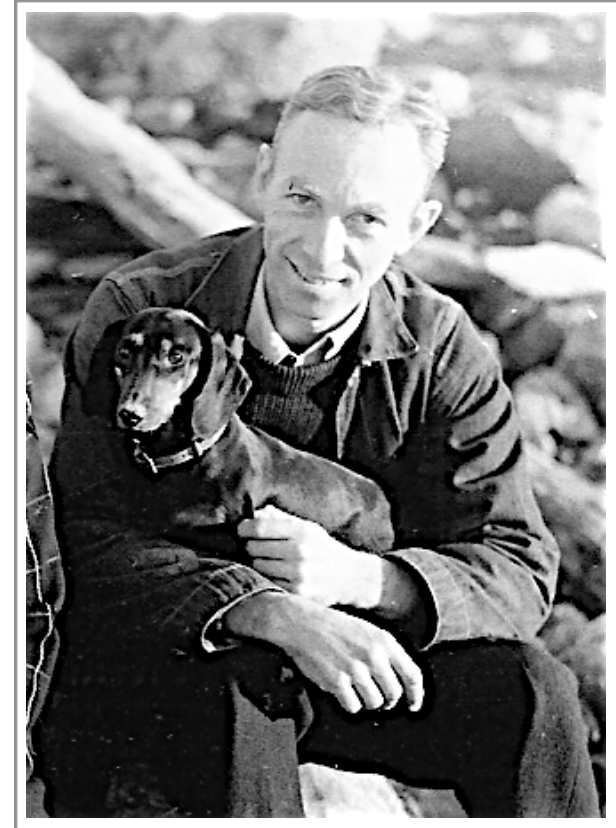
Students of the Classic Works of the Imagination, Symbol and Allegory class were asked to compose a fictional letter that expresses something other than what it literally says. In addition to reading their regular course work of symbolic literature, the students prepared for this speech night assignment by reading humorous fictional letters by Christopher Morley and E. B. White. Through the letters, the authors were able to make some humorous but incisive remarks about life. Christopher Morley's "Letter to Father Time" is an interesting reflection on time, while E. B. White's letter to the IRS reflects the hard-hitting tactics of the America's impersonal tax collecting agency.

Students of the Short Story Class were asked to write a narrative or expository speech using one of several model essays by George Orwell and E. B. White. Students were encouraged to let the story part of their narratives communicate their message, rather than "tell" their message directly. Those who chose to write an expository speech explaining a given quotation and supporting their ideas through anecdotes and examples.

The Personal Narrative class read autobiographies, personal memoirs, journals, autobiographies, and biographies of famous and not-so-famous writers and used them as examples for their own writing. The dramatic performance that you see tonight was written by students of the class based on James Thurber's crazy semi-autobiography entitled *My Life and Hard Times*.

Speech Night 2015

Dramatic Recitations and Speeches



"Writing is both mask and unveiling."

E. B. White

Introduction and Prayer

Part 1

“The Kangaroo” by Ogden Nash, *recited by Alexander Klee*

“The Elephant” by Ogden Nash, *recited by Emily Garecht*

“The Panther” by Ogden Nash, *recited by Micah Lozano*

A Letter by Lia Welch

A Letter by Noah Davidson

“The Little Joys” by Theodosia Garrison *Francesca Milani and Lydia Reese*

“The Owl” by Alfred Tennyson *Claire Trzybinski*

“The Lord My Banner” by William Cowper *Noah Callahan*

“The Barefoot Boy” by John Greenleaf Whittier *Josiah Reese*

“Running” by Micah Sterret

“I’ve Had This Shirt” by Michael Rosen *Nathaniel Tom*

“For the Poor” by William Cowper *Luke Bushra*

“Seasons” by Christina Rossetti *Cecilia and Micah Volpe*

“If All Were Rain” by Christina Rossetti *Jesse Maio*

“Against Idleness and Mischief” by Isaac Watts *Matthew Kuznicki*

A Letter by Elsa Walter

A Letter by Megan Stevens

“Good Friday” by Christina Rossetti *Elizabeth Ko and Anna Lozano*

“The Eagle” by Alfred Tennyson *Kellen Stevens*

“A Chill” by Christina Rossetti *Caroline Drennen*

“Praise to Our Creator” by Isaac Watts *Gianluca Milani*

“The Pasture” by Robert Frost *Beri Chung*

“I’m Nobody” by Emily Dickinson *Martha Roberts*

“A Chill” by Christina Rossetti; composed by Jean Milani and sung by Milani Family

“Box” by Andrew Harper

A Letter by Catherine Lyon

Thomas Carlyle talking on William Wordsworth by Grant Metzger

Five-minute Intermission; Part 2

University Days written by Colette Cavazos, Haley Garecht and Linda Manginelli, derived from James Thurber’s *My Life* and *Hard Times*.

Scene 1 *Narrator:* Linda Manginelli; *James:* Sam Bushra; *Professor:* William Livezey; *Students:* Jack Drennen, Chloe MacLacklin, Caleb Cavazos, Stephen Lozano, Joshua Louie, Samantha Tom

Scene 2 *Narrator:* Haley Garecht; *Economics Professor:* Joshua Louie; *Bolenciewicz:* Jack Drennen; *Students:* Jack Drennen, Chloe MacLacklin, Caleb Cavazos, Stephen Lozano, Joshua Louie, Samantha Tom

Scene 3 *Narrator:* Haley Garecht; *Gym Coach:* Stephen Lozano; *James:* Sam Bushra; *Nice Student:* Chloe MacLacklin; *Agricultural Student:* Samantha Tom

Scene 4 *Narrator:* Linda Manginelli; *General:* Joshua Louie; *James:* Sam Bushra; *Students:* Jack Drennen, Chloe MacLacklin, Caleb Cavazos, Stephen Lozano, Samantha Tom

“Nobody but Myself” by Antonia Milani

“Smartphones” by Tad Lyon

“Light Shining out of Darkness” by William Cowper *Jacob Louie and Ethan Tom*

“The Pedigree of Honey” by Emily Dickinson *Sarah Stahl*

“Lines” by William Wordsworth *Evi Sargeant and Sarah Bailey*

“The Echoing Green” by William Blake *Will and Lewis Ghrist*

“Where Time Stands Still” by Grace Mox

Caedmon talks about Poetry by Ben Callahan

Mrs. Blake talks about her husband William Blake by Hannahgrace Burrowes

“Stopping by the Pizza Parlor on a Snowy Afternoon” by Marisa Sankey

Five-minute Intermission; Part 3

“Consider” by Christina Rossetti, *recited by Anna Rose Walter*

“Going Down Hill on a Bicycle” by Henry Charles Beeching, *recited by Christian Lengkeek and Edward Lyon*

“I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud” by William Wordsworth, *recited by Elise and Emma Lengkeek*

Winner of the Poetry Contest Song; music written and sung by Jean Milani

A Letter by Zipporah Ellis

A Letter by Jeremiah Levine

“A Life Colored by Sunsets” by Grace Ellis

“The Unexpected” by Jonam Walter

Refreshments