

2023 GLSC Reading Contest Terms and Conditions

Dear Teachers,

In school, not only reading, but also reading aloud is important and needs to be practiced. It will bring joy to the reader and the audience alike! Sharing a text in this way is a communal experience bringing the participants closer together. What's more, reading aloud contributes to language development as well as communication and expression skills. When students read aloud, they strengthen their vocabulary and their ability to concentrate. They practice creative language skills. They also learn how to speak publicly which will come in handy later in life.

Here are the Terms and Conditions for the 2023 GLSC Reading Contest:

Participants

There are two student categories and two age groups.

Category 1: German as a Foreign Language

Age groups: 7-11 and 12-16 years

Category 2: German as a Heritage Language

Age groups: 7-11 and 12-16 years

Foreign Language vs. Heritage Language Speakers

Heritage Language Speakers have prior language knowledge on approximately the A1 level in terms of communication skills. A German as a Foreign Language Learner has no or very little previous knowledge and starts the language course as a beginner, well below level A1, or as a Novice or Novice Mid based on the ACTFL Guidelines.

Contest Dates

The contest runs from April to September 30th, 2023.

Acceptable Text Passages

Students can read unaltered text passages from books of their own choosing. Reading from photocopies or reading of self-written texts is not permitted.

Reading Length

The reading time is about 2 to 3 minutes. At the beginning, the student gives his or her name, age, grade, and the name of the school as well as the author and the title of the book. This time is not included in the reading time, but the introduction will be included in the assessment.

Contest Procedures

The school decides with its teachers and classes whether and how they want to take part in the contest.

First Step: In each participating class, each student chooses a text that he or she would like to read and practices with the teacher and possibly also with the parents at home. An in-class competition is held and the teacher and the students determine the winner. Another round of readings might be conducted where the winners from different classes can compete against each other.

Second Step: The school determines which students are the winners in the four different categories mentioned above. Their readings should be recorded.

Third Step: The school nominates the winner in each category as a participant in the 2023 GLSC Reading Contest by uploading the Permission to Participate and Parental Consent Form on the GLSC website.

Fourth Step: After that, the video recordings are uploaded on the GLSC website as well.

Acceptable formats are MP4 and WEBM for the video and PDF, DOCX, and DOC for the form.

Please note: Contributions that have been uploaded without the corresponding Permission to Participate and Parental Consent Form cannot be accepted.

Selecting Winners

A GLSC jury will select a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner in each category. The jury's decision is final. All participants registered with the GLSC will receive a certificate. Four 1st prize winners (one in each category/age group) will be invited to present their winning text virtually or in person at the GLSC Conference in November.

Role of Teachers

Teachers can:

- Advise students on the selection of texts.
- Help students to mark up the text - for shorter pauses with a slash (/) and for longer pauses with two slashes (//) - and to underline important words.
- Give hints on how to use their voice as a public speaker.
- Demonstrate use of non-verbal cues to match the text, i.e., voice variation in a loud or quiet, friendly, sad or happy manner and appropriate gestures according to the action.
- Offer performance style tips, i.e., not to read too fast or too slow, take breaks, pay attention to the punctuation marks and emphasize the sentences accordingly, not to hide behind the text, make eye contact and engage with the audience.

Assessment Criteria

Introduction	1 – 4 Points
Volume: Not too soft	1 – 4 Points
Tempo: Not too fast/not too slow	1 – 4 Points
Pronunciation	1 – 4 Points
Clarity of Speech	1 – 4 Points
Expressiveness of Speech/Relation to Audience	1 – 4 Points
Compliance with Reading Time Requirement	1 – 4 Points
Minimum	7 Points
Maximum	28 Points

Good luck to all the contestants!
Your GLSC Board