

2025 LEETON EISTEDDFOD- SPEECH, DRAMA AND LITERARY SYLLABUS.

Esteemed Adjudicator Mrs Jill Tucker

Competition will be conducted in the Leeton Roxy Community Theatre, and the Uniting Church Hall Church Street, Leeton 25th, 26th and 27th August 2025.

ENQUIRIES

If you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact the Leeton Eisteddfod Committee via leetoneisteddfod@gmail.com

RULES

1. Please refer to the General Rules.
2. Impact of number of competitors on judging:
 - a. If under 3 competitors - 1st place only will be awarded
 - b. If 4 or 5 competitors – 1st and 2nd place will be awarded
 - c. If 6 or more competitor's 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awarded
 - d. No section will be contested with only 1 competitor, however in the case of a single competitor they will be invited to perform either one age group up or perform on the understanding that there will be no prize awarded only an adjudicator's comment sheet.
 - e. The committee reserves the right to amalgamate sections with low entry numbers.
3. Prizes (refer to the general rules)
 - a. Open Individual Sections \$20.00 1st, \$15.00 2nd \$10 3rd.
 - b. 12 years and 8 years medals awarded in all places where applicable.
 - c. High Schools \$30.00 1st and \$15.00 2nd
 - d. Primary School \$25 1st and \$15 2nd.
4. Please note Public Speaking is included in Recitals sections 7 and 15.

DEBATING

RULES:

1. Teams will be advised of the topic two weeks prior to competition, including affirmative or negative.
2. Teachers must ensure that any debater competing in more than one debate does not speak in the same position in both debates. (eg if they were the first speaker in the first debate, they cannot be first speaker in subsequent debates).
3. Schools need to advise the Speech & Drama Convenor NO LATER than Monday August 4, 2025 if they intend to withdraw, and if possible, get a replacement team.
4. The convenor will contact all schools and advise of any withdrawals.

Section 21. Senior High School Teams Years 11 & 12

Speakers allowed 7-5-5 minutes respectively.

Section 22. Junior High School Teams Years 9 & 10.

Speakers allowed 5-4-4 minutes respectively.

Section 23. Sub Junior High School Teams Years 7 & 8.

Speakers allowed 5-4-4 minutes respectively.

Section 24. Primary School Teams

Speakers allowed 4-3-3 minutes respectively.

DRAMA

RULES:

1. Copies of any plays/scenes chosen must be provided by entrants (including names of the cast).
2. Plays must be of an acceptable standard and any copyright fees must be paid by the entrants before performances.
3. Cuts may be made to keep the play within time limits and these must be clearly marked on the copy provided to the secretary.
4. Entrants are responsible for their own props and scenery and these need to be kept to a minimum.
5. Setting up and dismantling the stage is included in the time frame and no curtains are permitted.
6. Performances are limited to no more than 20 minutes

Section 25. OPEN

One Act Play or any act or scene from a play.

Section 26. Secondary School

One Act Play or any act or scene from a play.

Section 27. Primary School

One Act Play or any act or scene from a play.

Section 28. Infants School

One Act Play or any act or scene from a play.

VERSE SPEAKING

RULES:

1. All verse speaking choirs must be no fewer than ten (10) voices
2. Copies of all *Own Choice* poems to be provided to Adjudicator prior

Section 30. Special Schools.

Two *Own Choice* poems of contrasting nature.

Section 31. Small Schools (less than 100 pupils)

Two pieces:

- a. Set Poem *The Clock-Maker's Shop* by Katherine Blowen
- b. *Own Choice*

Section 32. Infant School. (years K-2)

Two *Own Choice* poems of contrasting nature.

Section 33. Junior Primary School (years 3-4)

Two pieces:

- a. Set Poem *The Skeleton House* by Lawrence Smith
- b. *Own Choice*

Section 34. Primary School (years 5-6)

Two pieces:

- a. Set Poem: *The Witches' School of Flying* by Marian Swinger
- b. *Own Choice*

RECITALS

Section 55. OPEN

Recital of a piece of work (poetry or prose) by a local author or poet.

PRIZES 1st \$50, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20 + special recognition award for Adjudicator's Choice

(Can include selections from poetry collections such as: *Under Wide Skies* by Jim Graham, the works of Sarah Tiffen (published by Ginninderra Press), publications by local publishing house Riverina Writing House, including by authors CJ Talbot (*Caloro – Riverina Landscapes*) and Ben Smith (*Words for the Vision Impaired*), and collections *Memoirs and Reflections – Life in a Time of COVID*, and *Light, Land, Spirit – a study of place in words and pictures*, other local writers such as Jason Richardson, Benjamin Dodds, Melanie Ifield, and others. See your local library for copies or look online. There is much to choose from)

13 years and over

Section 1. Set Recital.

The Ghost Teacher by Allan Ahlberg

Section 2. Australian Recital.

Own Choice

Section 3. Bible Reading.

Any selection from *Isaiah*

Section 4. Humorous Recital.

Light verse. Own choice.

Section 5. Prepared Reading

Any selection from C.S. Lewis

Section 6. Impromptu Reading.

Section 7. Public Speaking

Speech should be of 5 minutes duration with a warning bell at 4 minutes. Topic – *WHY THE ARTS MATTER*

12 years and under

Section 8. Character Recital.

Own choice.

Section 9. Set Recital.

Old Man Platypus by A.B. Patterson OR

Dad's Hiding in the Shed by John Foster

Section 10. Australian Recital.

Own choice

Section 11. Bible Reading.

Any selection from *Psalms*

Section 12. Humorous Recital.

Light Verse. Own choice.

Section 13. Prepared Reading.

Any selection from Ahn Do

Section 14. Impromptu Reading.

Section 15. Public Speaking

Topic – *MY FAMILY HISTORY – WHAT IT MEANS TO ME*

Speech of 3 minutes duration with warning bell at 2 minutes.

8 years and under

Section 16. Character Recital.

Own choice. Costume Optional

Section 17. Set Recital.

Sock Song, by Ian McMillian OR

After My Bath, by Aileen Fisher

Section 18. Bible Reading.

Any selection from Mark

Section 19. Humorous Recital.

Light Verse. Own choice.

Section 20. Prepared Reading

Any selection from the Brer Rabbit Series by Enid Blyton

LITERARY DISCIPLINE

RULES:

1. Submissions must be received by 4th August 2025 as a hard copy posted to Literary Section Leeton Eisteddfod PO Box 322 Leeton NSW 2705.
2. Competitors will be advised by email when the results will be announced and relevant trophies presented. This will be done during the speech competition.
3. Unless otherwise stated, the topic for written work is at the discretion of the competitor.
4. To avoid confusion competitors must provide a cover page clearly showing the below details:

Competitor Name:

Competitor Age:

Section No:

Contact Number:

Contact Email:

5. Please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope to receive your manuscript back and the adjudicators comments. These will be posted after the eisteddfod.
6. Schools are invited to submit bulk entries aligning with curriculum work in any sections

OPEN - 18 years and over

40. Original Poem (maximum 150 words)

41. Original Short Story (maximum 1000 words)

42. Written Expression (maximum 1000 words)

Topic – BOOKS THAT CHANGED ME, AND WHY THEY MATTER

16 and 17 years

43. Original Poem (maximum 150 words)

44. Original Short Story (maximum 1000 words)

45. Written Expression (maximum 750 words)

Topic – WHAT I LOVE ABOUT GROWING UP IN THE BUSH

14 and 15 years

46. Original Poem (maximum 150 words)

47. Original Short Story (maximum 1000 words)

48. Written Expression (maximum 500 words)

Topic - WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL TOWNS NEED TO THRIVE

12 and 13 years

49. Original Poem (maximum 150 words)

50. Original Short Story (maximum 1000 words)

51. Written Expression (maximum 500 words)

Topic – STORIES MY GRANDPARENTS TOLD ME

Primary Schools

52. Original Poem - Maximum 150 words

53. Original Short Story (maximum 1000 words)

54. Written Expression (maximum 350 words)

Topic – FRIENDSHIP

Section 31

THE CLOCK-MAKER'S SHOP- Katherine Blowen

Tick-tock!! Tick-tock!

Listen to the clocks in the clock-makers shop.

Clocks with faces round and bright.

Illuminated hands show the time at night.

Tick-tock! Tick-tock!

Listen to the clocks in the clock-maker's shop.

Grandfather clock has pride of place,

He has such a fat jolly face!

Grandfather clock is big and strong,

He strikes on the hour – Dong! Dong! Dong!

Tick-tock! Tick-tock!

Listen to the clocks in the clock-maker's shop.

Tiny watches, tick-tick-tick,

Telling the time, quick be quick!

Tick-tick! Tick-tick-tick!

Clocks on the wall, look at them do,

Hear them all say - Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

Pendulums swing as hands go round,

The clock-maker works to the syncopated sound.

Tick-tick-tick!

Tick-tock! Tick-tock!

Dong! Dong! Dong!

Clocks! Clocks! CLOCKS!

Cuckoo! Cuckoo! Cuckoo!

Tick-tock! Tick-tock! Tick-tock!

Section 33

SKELETON HOUSE- Lawrence Smith

Push, push the heavy door

CREE...CREEE.....CREEEEK!

Tip-toe the rotten floor

SQUEE....SQUEE....SQUEEEEEK!

Step across the missing stair

EER.....EER....EEEERK!

Step is that something over there?

SWISH...SWISH...SWISH...

Behind the curtain, what is that?

A red-eyed rat, a swooping bat

OOOW...OOOOW.....OOOOW!

There's something sitting in that chair

SSH... SSSH...SSSSH!

His head is white with cobweb hair

OH!...NO!... SSH!

He starts to speak with clacking jaws

CLACK...CLACK...CLACK!

I grab his leg with all my force

PULL...PULL.....PULL.....PULL..

Just like I'm pulling yours!

Section 34

The Witches' School of Flying by Marian Swinger

To fly your broomstick, take one cat
then place on head your witch's hat.
Put cat on stick towards the end,
jump on, sit straight; you shouldn't bend.'
Thus instructed Mistress Dale
to Arabella Nightingale
who wore an L-plate painted red,
a brand-new hat upon her head,
and carried, with a muffled groan,
a cat, who weighed at least two stone.
The broomstick quivered – took off fast.
The treetops swayed as they zoomed past.
Then, flying high above the crowd,
they somersaulted through a cloud.
The trainee witch was heard to wail,
'Too much weight upon the tail.'
The cat, with his enormous girth,
fell off and spiralled down to earth.
But Arabella cast a spell,
and in a second, all was well.
The watching witches yelled, 'How cute,
he's got a magic parachute.'
Then Arabella landed – SPLAT –
in time to catch her floating cat.
The witch instructress muttered, 'Phew!!
Report next week for lesson two.'

RECITALS EIGHT YEARS AND UNDER

Section 17

Sock Song - Ian McMillian

Upstairs, Downstairs,
Where can they be?
I can't find my socks
And they can't find me!

Bedroom, Bathroom
Where have they gone?
I can't find my socks
And need to put them on!

Inside, Outside,
Hanging on A the line?
I can't find my socks
And I am running out of time!

One sock, Two socks,
Silly things to lose

And when I've found my socks----
I'll be hunting for my shoes.

After My Bath- Aileen Fisher

I try, try, try
to wipe myself
till I'm dry, dry, dry.

Hands to wipe
and fingers and toes
and two wet legs
and a shiny nose.

Just think how much
less time I'd take
if I were a dog
and could shake, shake, shake.

RECITAL 12 YEARS AND UNDER

Section 9

DAD'S HIDING IN THE SHED- John Foster

Dad's hiding in the shed.
He's made me swear
Not to tell Mum
That he's hiding in there.

She was having a lie-down
With the curtains drawn.
We were playing cricket
Out on the lawn.

The scores were level.
It was really tense.
Dad had just hit a six
Right over the fence.

I bowled the next ball
As fast as I could.
Dad tried it again
As I knew he would.

But he missed and the ball
Struck him hard on the toe.
He cried out in pain,
And, as he did so,

He let go of the bat.
It flew up in an arc
And crashed through the window
Where Mum lay in the dark.
Dad's hiding in the shed.

He's made me swear
Not to tell Mum
That he's hiding in there.

OLD MAN PLATYPUS- A.B.Paterson

Far from the trouble and toil of town,
Where the reed beds sweep and shiver,
Look at a fragment of velvet brown—
Old Man Platypus drifting down,
Drifting along the river.

And he plays and dives in the river bends
In a style that is most elusive;
With few relations and fewer friends,
For Old Man Platypus descends
From a family most exclusive.

He shares his burrow beneath the bank
With his wife and his son and daughter
At the roots of the reeds and the grasses rank;
And the bubbles show where our hero sank
To its entrance under water.

Safe in their burrow below the falls
They live in a world of wonder,
Where no one visits and no one calls,
They sleep like little brown billiard balls
With their beaks tucked neatly under.

And he talks in a deep unfriendly growl
As he goes on his journey lonely;
For he's no relation to fish nor fowl,
Nor to bird nor beast, nor to horned owl;
In fact, he's the one and only!

RECITALS 13 YEARS AND OVER

The Ghost Teacher- Allan Ahlberg

The school is closed, the children gone,
But the ghost of a teacher lingers on.
As the daylight fades, as the daytime ends,
As the night draws in and the dark descends,
She stands in the class room, as clear as glass,
And calls the names of her absent class.

The school is shut, the children grown,
But the ghost of the teacher all alone,
Puts the date on the board and moves about
(As the night draws in and the stars come out)
Between desks -A glow in the gloom-

And calls for quite in the silent room.

The school is a ruin, the children fled,
But the ghost of the teacher, long time dead,
As the moon comes up and the first owls glide,
Puts on her coat and steps outside.
In the moonlit playground, shadow free,
She stands on duty with a cup of tea.

The school is forgotten -the children forget-
But the ghost of a teacher, lingers yet.
As the night creeps up to the edge of day,
She tidies the Plasticine away;
Counts the scissors -a shimmer of glass-
And says, "Off you go!" to her absent class.

She utters the words that no one hears.
Picks up her bag...
And
Disappears.