

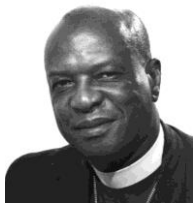
# Theodore Gibson Oratorical Contest

(Elementary Competition is on March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00pm)

All students interested MUST complete the permission slip on back and return to Ms. Monge in the Magnet Office on or before the audition date. Include a printed copy of poem/selection!



## Primary AUDITIONS Thursday February 15 @ 3:15 pm



## History

The Theodore Gibson Oratorical Project is dedicated to exposing school children to the wide breadth of **writings about the Black experience throughout the Diaspora**. Project seeks to provide an opportunity for school children to discover and refine public speaking skills through a comprehensive and challenging level of learning and competition.

Judges will look for student expression, voice projection and preparedness.

Contest criteria:

- ✓ reciting poetry/monologue/speech or performing a 2-3 minute original or published work
- ✓ content - clarity of ideas and related subject
- ✓ originality - the use of imagination
- ✓ delivery - self-confidence, body language, presentation techniques, expressiveness

(Original pieces are given bonus points.)

## Helpful Websites:

<https://www.weareteachers.com/black-history-month-poems/>

<https://poets.org/text/black-history-month-poems-kids>

<https://briefly.co.za/95024-20-black-history-poems-kids-a-celebration-black.html>

<http://www.afropoets.net/nikkigiovanni.html>

<http://www.afropoets.net/claudemckay.html>

<http://www.afropoets.net/tupacshakur.html>

<http://www.afropoets.net/junejordan.html>

Look here  
for great  
ideas!

- "Mother to Son" by: Langston Hughes
- "Negro Mother" by: Langston Hughes
- "Freedom Train" by: Langston Hughes
- "Dreams" by: Langston Hughes
- "The Reason I Like Chocolate" by: Nikki Giovanni
- "The Creation" by: James Weldon Johnson
- "Justice in America" by: Gigi Watson
- "Honey, I Can be Whatever I Want to Be" by: Gigi Watson
- "Last Will and Testament" by: Mary McLeod Bethune
- "Little Soul Sister" by: Useni Eugene Perkins
- "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." by: Lucille H. Giles & Useni Eugene Perkins
- "Honey, I Love" by: Eloise Greenfield
- "Way Down in the Music" by: Eloise Greenfield
- "Harriet Tubman" by: Eloise Greenfield
- "I Have a Dream" by: Martin Luther King
- "Phenomenal Woman" by: Maya Angelou
- "Midway" by: Naomi Long Madgett
- "Essence 25" by: Kephra Burns
- "Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou
- "Daddy's Little Girl" by Linda Michelle Baron
- "Equality" by Maya Angelou
- "Ain't that Bad?" by Maya Angelou
- "Ego Trip" by Nikki Giovanni
- "To the Forlorn Black Child of the 21st Century" by Aimée Pringle
- "Fire" by Langston Hughes
- "Just Like Job" by Maya Angelou
- "My Poem" by Nikki Giovanni
- "Lord,
- "Why Did You Make Me Black" by RuNett Nia Ebo
- "I am Somebody" by Gigi Watson
- "We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks
- "I Too" by Langston Hughes
- "Ain't I A Woman" by Sojourner Truth
- "Life Is Fine" by Langston Hughes
- "Booker T. and WEB" by: Dudley Randall
- "We Wear the Mask" by: Paul Laurence Dunbar
- "I Have a Dream" by: Dr. Martin Luther King
- "To Be Young Gifted and Black" by: Weldon Irving
- "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by: Maya Angelou
- "Equality" by: Maya Angelou
- "Alone" by: Maya Angelou
- "I, Too sing America" by: Langston Hughes
- "Still, I Rise" by Maya Angelou
- "Dreams" by: Langston Hughes

Retired Pieces  
Do NOT use  
these!



# Theodore Gibson Oratorical Contest

## Elementary Competition is

on March 5<sup>th</sup> @ 6 pm.

### Physical Presence

Present yourself well and be attentive. Use good posture. Be confident and make a direct connection with the audience.

Nervous gestures and lack of confidence will detract from your score.

Relax and be natural. Enjoy your poem—the judges will notice.

### Voice and Articulation -Pace, rhythm, intonation, and proper pronunciation.

Project to the audience. Capture the attention of everyone, including the people in the back row. However, don't mistake shouting for good projection.

Proceed at a fitting and natural pace. People may communicate too quickly when nervous, making the poem hard to understand. Do not communicate so slowly that the language sounds unnatural or awkward.

With rhymed poems, be careful not to recite in a sing-song manner.

Make sure you know how to pronounce every word in your poem. Articulate.

Line breaks are a defining feature of poetry. Decide whether a break requires a pause and, if so, how long to pause.

### Dramatic Appropriateness

Recitation is about conveying a poem's sense with its language. **A strong performance will rely on a powerful internalization of the poem rather than excessive gestures. Appropriate interpretation enhances the audience's understanding and enjoyment of the poem without overshadowing the poem's language.**

#### Tips:

Do not act out each word of the poem. Movement must not detract from the poem's voice.

You are the vessel of your poem. Have confidence that your poem is strong enough to communicate without a physical illustration. Let the words of the poem do the work.

Depending on the poem, occasional gestures may be appropriate, but the line between appropriate and overdone is a thin one. When uncertain, leave them out.

Avoid monotone delivery. However, too much enthusiasm can make your performance seem insincere.



# Primary AUDITIONS Tuesday Feb. 15 @ 3:15 pm



# Miami-Dade County Public Schools

*giving our students the world*

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Dr. Jose L. Dotres

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Dear Parents:

Air Base K-8 Center is pleased to host the Annual Theodore Gibson Oratorical Contest for Primary and Upper Academy students. Your child may choose to participate through reciting poetry/monologue/speech or performing a 2-3 minute original or published work relating to influential African Americans or the writings about the Black experience throughout the Diaspora. Topics about diversity, social injustice and discrimination are also acceptable.

**The Primary Grade Oratorical (Kindergarten - 5th grade) will be held on Tuesday, March 5th at 6pm.**

**The Upper Academy Oratorical (6th through 8th grade) will be held on Thursday, March 7th at 6pm.**

All interested Primary students must **AUDITION** on **Thursday, February 15th** in the cafeteria at 3:15 p.m.

All Upper Academy students AUDITION through Ms. Nancy Wright, English Language Arts Chairperson.

Contestants will be divided into sub-categories for judging (Kindergarten - 2nd), (3rd-5th) and (6th-8th). Judges will be looking to evaluate self-expression, voice projection, and preparedness. Criteria for judging is content (clarity of ideas and related subject), originality (the use of imagination) and delivery (self-confidence, body language, presentation techniques, expressiveness).

We encourage all students to participate in this event. Students gain confidence, strengthen their communication skills, as well as increase their awareness of African American influences in our history. Please complete the bottom portion of this letter, with a printed copy of poem/selection and return to Ms. Monge in the Magnet Office by **Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024**. Direct any questions to [cmonge@dadeschools.net](mailto:cmonge@dadeschools.net).

Educationally Yours,

*Carmen Monge*

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### Permission Slip to audition for the Theodore Gibson Oratorical

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I will assist my child in preparing for the auditions. I understand that the audition does not guarantee performance selection. If, my child is selected, I will ensure that he/she arrives to participate in the event on his/her required date (Primary Contest March 5th and Upper Academy March 7th.)