



SPEECH MEET SAMPLER

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The selections referenced in this *Sampler* are examples of acceptable material for the Speech Meet. Students are not required to choose one of these selections.

Students should work with teachers to find comparable pieces that would be of interest to the student and support the curricular program.

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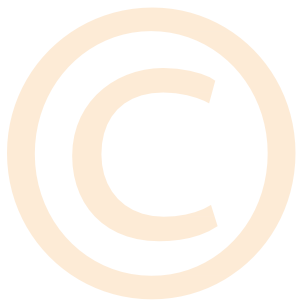
Important Information

THANK YOU for participating in the ACSI Speech Meet!

The ACSI Student Leadership & Learning (SL&L) team is here to help you in every way possible. Please don't hesitate to ask for assistance.

ACSI Student Leadership & Learning partners with K-12 schools and universities globally to advance the educational mission for students by providing enrichment and experiential events beyond the classroom, which equip students with valuable skills such as creative thinking, problem-solving, leadership, and service. Through participation, students discover their talents, reinforce their biblical worldview, and increase their cultural influence for Jesus.

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Grades 1-6 Bible Memorization

These are sample Bible passages. Students may select comparable passages.

Scripture passages must come from one of the following Bible versions:

- English Standard Version (ESV)
- King James Version (KJV)
- New American Standard Bible (NASB)
- New International Version (NIV)
- New King James Version (NKJV)

Grades 1 and 2

Joshua 24:14–16
 Psalm 1
 Psalm 9:7–10
 Psalm 23
 Psalm 27:1–3
 Psalm 27:4–6
 Psalm 37:23–26
 Psalm 86:11–13
 Psalm 95:3–7
 Psalm 100
 Psalm 121:1–4
 Proverbs 3:1–6
 Isaiah 41:9–10
 Isaiah 43:10–13
 Isaiah 53:1–6
 Matthew 5:43–48
 Matthew 6:19–21
 Matthew 16:13–16
 Matthew 22:37–40
 Matthew 24:42–44
 John 14:1–6
 Acts 1:8–11
 Acts 4:10–12
 Romans 3:23–26
 Romans 15:5–7
 2 Corinthians 5:17–21
 Galatians 5:13–15
 Ephesians 6:1–3
 Philippians 4:6–8
 Colossians 3:1–4
 James 1:22–25
 James 5:13–16
 1 John 3:16–20 1:3–11

Grades 3 and 4

1 Samuel 12:1–10
 2 Samuel 22:31–37
 Psalm 19:7–14
 Psalm 37:1–9
 Psalm 51:1–12
 Psalm 67:1–7
 Psalm 103:1–12
 Psalm 119:1–8
 Psalm 119:9–16
 Psalm 145:1–12
 Proverbs 2:1–8
 Malachi 3:6–12
 Matthew 5:3–12
 Matthew 7:15–21
 Mark 10:17–27
 Luke 12:22–28
 Luke 19:1–10
 John 1:6–14
 John 6:32–40
 Romans 5:1–11
 1 Corinthians 11:23–29
 1 Corinthians 13
 Ephesians 4:22–32
 Ephesians 6:11–18
 Philippians 1:12–21
 Philippians 3:7–14
 Colossians 3:12–17
 1 Thessalonians 4:13–17
 2 Timothy 4:1–8
 Hebrews 3:7–15
 Hebrews 4:12–16
 1 Peter 2:11–17

Grades 5 and 6

Psalm 15
 Psalm 19:1–11
 Psalm 33:1–12
 Psalm 34:1–15
 Psalm 96
 Psalm 119:1–12
 Psalm 139:1–14
 Proverbs 3:13–26
 Proverbs 4:13–27
 Ecclesiastes 3:1–12
 Isaiah 42:1–8
 Isaiah 53
 Matthew 6:25–33
 Matthew 14:22–33
 Luke 8:5–15
 Acts 17:22–31
 Romans 8:28–39
 1 Corinthians 12:4–13
 Galatians 5:16–25
 Ephesians 3:14–21
 Ephesians 4:1–15
 Ephesians 4:17–24
 Ephesians 5:15–21
 Philippians 2:5–16
 Colossians 1:9–14
 Colossians 2:6–15
 2 Timothy 2:14–26
 Hebrews 11:1–10
 Hebrews 12:1–11
 James 3:1–12
 James 4:1–10
 James 5:13–20
 1 Peter 1:10–25
 1 Peter 1:3–12
 1 Peter 4:12–19
 2 Peter 1:3–11

Grades 1-6 Poetry Samples

The following titles are sample selections. Comparable material may be chosen from other sources, such as The Children's Book of Virtues by William J. Bennett (1995, New York: Simon and Schuster) and Bedtime Hugs for Little Ones by Debby Boone (2004; Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers), as well as Christian text (such as language arts and reading) publishers. Internet sources are permitted as long as required copyright policy is followed. Selections must be truth-telling (Philippians 4:8) and approved by the School Coordinator. If there is any question, please contact the event Chairperson for approval.

Grade 1 Poetry Samples

A Bed in the Leaves by Marian Kennedy

A Little Bird by Aileen Fisher

Animals to Love by Eunice D. Breilid

Animals, Too by Margaret E. Singleton

April Rain Song by Langston Hughes

Be Even Tempered by Alice Joyce Davidson

Bed in Summer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Boats by Rowan Bastin Bennett

Catch a Little Rhyme by Eve Merriam

Chums by Arthur Guiterman

Crocus by Sarah J. Day

Doll's Song by Lewis Carroll

Don't Ever Cross a Crocodile by Kaye Starbird

Enjoy Work by Alice Joyce Davidson

Forgive Others by Alice Joyce Davidson

Funny the Way Different Cars Start by Dorothy Baruch

Furry Bear by A. A. Milne

Grandfather Frog by Louise Seaman Bechtal

Grown Up by Dorothy Aldis

I Keep Three Wishes Ready by Annette Wynne

I Think When I Read That Sweet Story of Old by Jemima Luke

If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking by Emily Dickinson

In Harmony with Nature by Alice Joyce Davidson

In The Garden by Emily Dickinson

Little Snail by Hilda Conkling

Little Talk by Aileen Fisher

Little Things by Ebenezer Cobham Brewer

Little Turtle by Nicholas Vachel Lindsay

Mothers Always Know by Jocinna C. Miller

Mrs. Peck-Pigeon by Eleanor Farjeon

My Favorite Word by Lucia and James L. Hymes, Jr.

Neighborly by Violet A. Storey

October by Rose Fyleman

On Eating Porridge Made of Peas by Louis Phillips

Poetry by Eleanor Farjeon

Grade 1 Poetry Samples (continued)

Recipe by *Walter Maughan*

Schoolroom Clock by *Mother Goose*

Set a Good Example by *Alice Joyce Davidson*

Someone by *Walter de la Mare*

Something Told the Wild Geese by *Rachel Field*

Spread God's Word by *Alice Joyce Davidson*

Spring Morning by *A. A. Milne*

Spring Prayer by *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Star Faithful by *John Milton*

Thank God for Little Things by *Helen Steiner Rice*

Thanks, Dear Jesus by *Ed Brandt*

The Animal Store by *Rachel Field*

The Cow by *Albert B. Southwick*

The Dark by *Ethel Jacobson*

The Ice-Cream Man by *Rachel Field*

The Land of Counterpane by *Robert Louis Stevenson*

The Secrets of Our Garden by *Rupert Sargent Holland*

The Skylark by *Christina Rossetti*

The Snowbird by *Frank Dempster Sherman*

The Steam Shovel by *Rowena Bennett*

The Swing by *Robert Louis Stevenson*

Traffic by *Jane Lear Talley*

Trees by *Joyce Kilmer*

The Woodpecker by *Elizabeth Madox Roberts*

The Worm by *Ralph Bergengren*

Tummyache by *Aileen Fisher*

Walking by *Grace Ellen Glaubitz*

What Does the Little Birdie Say by *Alfred Tennyson*

What Is It? by *Mcirie Louise Allen*

What Is Pink? by *Christina Rossetti*

Who Has Seen the Wind? by *Christina Rossetti*

Wind on the Hill by *A. A. Milne*

Wind Song by *Lilian Moore*

Windy Nights by *Robert Louis Stevenson*

Grade 2 Poetry Samples

A Good Play by Robert Louis Stevenson
A Kitten by Eleanor Farjeon
A Child's Prayer by M. Bentam Edwards
A Child's Thought of God by Elizabeth Barrett Browning
After the Party by William Wise
At the Garden Gate by David McCord
Bedtime by Eleanor Farjeon
Bernard Bartholomew Benjamin Brown by Carolyn Cawthorne
Blessing of God's Love by Patricia Emme
Books Fall Open by David McCord
Cat by Dorothy Baruch
Catalogue by Rosalie Moore
Eletelephony by Laura E. Richards
Galoshes by Rhoda Bacmeister
General Store by Rachel Field
Going to Bed by Marchette Chute
Good Morning by Muriel Sipe
Good Morning by Eleanor Farjeon
Habits of the Hippopotamus by Arthur Guiterman
Halfway Down by A. A. Milne
Have Good Intentions by Alice Joyce Davidson
How to Write a Letter by Elizabeth Turner
I Want to Know by John Drinkwater
I Wish I Were a Little Star by Edna Hamilton
If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking by Emily Dickinson
In the Morning by Ralph Cushman
Jabbering in School by Eleanor Farjeon
Little Tiger Cat by Annette Wynne
Make Me a Picture of the Sun by Emily Dickinson
Marching Song by Robert Louis Stevenson
Missing by A.A. Milne
Mrs. Brown by Rose Fyleman
My Books and I by Florence Piper Tuttle
My Cat, Mrs. Lick-A-Chin by John Ciardi
My Policeman by Rose Fyleman
My Visitors by Ethel H. Chesterfield
Old Glory by Alonzo Newton Benn
Opossum by William Jay Smith
Ornithology by Eleanor Farjeon
Our Snowman by Lucille Chiddix
Portrait by a Neighbor by Edna St. Vincent Millay
Questions at Night by Louis Untermeyer
Rabbits by Dorothy Baruch
Rain in the Night by Amelia Josephine Burr

Grade 2 Poetry Samples (continued)

Rain in Summer by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Seal by William Jay Smith

Slow But Sure by Lillian Beck

So Long as There Is Weather by Tamara Kitt

The Arrow and the Song by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The Balloon by Karla Kuskin

The Brook by Florence Piper Tuttle

The Elf and the Dormouse by Oliver Herford

The Favorite by Mildred Whitney Stillman

The Gingerbread Man by Rowena Bennett

The Jolly Woodchuck by Marion Edey and Dorothy Grider

The Kitten and the Falling Leaves by William Wordsworth

The Lost Doll by Charles Kinglsey

The Monkeys and the Crocodile by Laura E. Richards

The Mountain and the Squirrel by Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Mouse by Elizabeth Coatsworth

The Rain Song by Robert Loveman

The Rainbow by David McCord

The Reason for the Pelican by John Ciardi

The Shepherd Boy Sings by John Bunyan

The Things I Do by Karla Kuskin

Timothy Boon by Ivy O. Eastwick

Tiptoe by Karla Kuskin

To God, with Love by Alice Joyce Davidson

To Meet Mr. Lincoln by Eve Merriam

Tomorrow by Rowena B. Bennett

Verbs by Eleanor Farjeon

Very Lovely by Rose Fyleman

Weather by Eve Merriam

Weathers by Thomas Hardy

What in the World? by Eve Merriam

What Robin Told by George Cooper

Will There Really Be a Morning by Emily Dickinson

Winter Is Coming by Velda Blumhagen

Grade 3 Poetry Samples

A Boy Wonders by Dorothy J. Shearer
A Boy's Mother by James Whitcomb Riley
A Circus Garland by Rachel Field
A Mortifying Mistake by Anna Maria Pratt
A Sea-Song from the Shore by James Whitcomb Riley
A Wrecker or a Builder by Edgar A. Guest
Abraham Lincoln by Mildred Meigs
Afternoon with Grandmother by Barbara A. Huff
America Was Schoolmasters by Robert P. Tristram Coffin
An Introduction to Dogs by Ogden Nash
Animal Crackers by Christopher Morley
Arithmetic by Carl Sandburg
Ask Daddy, He Won't Know by Ogden Nash
At the Zoo by A. A. Milne
Be Kind by Alice Joyce Davidson
Busy by A. A. Milne
The Chameleon by A. P. Herbert
Circus by Eleanor Farjeon
Columbus by Laraine Eloise Jacobson
Come Out with Me by A. A. Milne
Daniel Boone by Arthur Guiterman
Every Time I Climb a Tree by David McCord
F. Scott Fitzgerald to His Daughter from *The Book of Virtues*
Foreign Lands by Robert Louis Stevenson
Grace at Evening by Edgar A. Guest
Hide and Seek by Mimi Brodsky
Hiding by Dorothy Aldis
I Am an American by Daniel Webster
I Looked in the Mirror by Beatrice Schenk DeRegniers
I Meant to Do My Work Today by Richard Le Gallienne
If You Were from *The Book of Virtues*
It Is Raining by Lucy Sprague Mitchell
Jonathan Bing by Beatrice Curtis Brown
Kindness to Animals from *The Book of Virtues*
Lincoln by Nancy Byrd Turner
Mummy Slept Late and Daddy Fixed Breakfast by John Ciardi
My Dog by Marchette Chute
My Shadow by Robert Louis Stevenson
My Speech by Mrs. E. H. Goodfellow
Puppy and I by A. A. Milne
Sermons We See by Edgar A. Guest
Spring by Karla Kuskin
Tell Him So by F. A. Egerton

Grade 3 Poetry Samples (continued)

- The Bluebird** by Emily Huntington Miller
The Boy We Want from *The Book of Virtues*
The Boy Who Never Told a Lie from *The Book of Virtues*
The Creation by Cecil Frances Alexander
The Crocodile by Oliver Herford
The Duck by E. L. M. King
The Egg by Laura E. Richards
The Friendly Beasts, an old carol from France
The Gift of Friendship by Helen Steiner Rice
The Good Little Girl by A. A. Milne
The Lamb by William Blake
The Lamplighter by Robert Louis Stevenson
The Land of Storybooks by Robert Louis Stevenson
The Library by Barbara A. Huff
The Lost Shoe by Walter de la Mare
The Owl and the Pussycat by Edward Lear
The Pancake Collector by Jack Prelutsky
The Secret Cavern by Margaret Viddemer
The Story of the Baby Squirrel by Dorothy A. Idis
The Story of Flying Robert by Heinrich Hoffman
The Unwinged Ones by Ogden Nash
The Wayfaring Song by Henry Van Dyke
The Wind by Robert Louis Stevenson
The World's Bible by Annie Johnson Flint
This and That by Florence Boyce Davis
Three Little Kittens by Eliza Cook
Tiger-Cat Tim by Edith H. Newlin
Trees by Harry Behn
Trees by Grace Oakes Burton
Two Little Maids by James W. Foley
Us Two by A. A. Milne
Very Early by Karla Kuskin
Vespers by A. A. Milne
What Have We Done Today? by Nixon Waterman
What Is a Teacher? by Garnett Ann Schultz
Which Loved Best by Joy Allison
Work by Henry Van Dyke
Written in March by William Wordsworth
Yesterday in Oxford Street by Rose Fyleman

Grade 4 Poetry Samples

A Boy and His Stomach by Edgar A. Guest

A Windy Day by Winifred Howard

Binker by A. A. Milne

Brighten the Corner Where You Are by Helen Steiner Rice

Daddy's Reward by George Harris

Harriet Tubman by Eloise Greenfield

If I Were a Pilgrim Child by Rowena Bennett

Little Boy Blue by Eugene Field

Mary by Mary O'Neill

My Heart's in the Highlands by Robert Burns

My Shadow by Robert Louis Stevenson

My Wise Old Grandpapa by Wilbur G. Howcroft

One, Two, Three by Harry C. Bunner

One Winter Night in August by X. J. Kennedy

Relatives by Edgar A. Guest

Sneezles by A. A. Milne

Somebody's Mother by Mary Dow Brine

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost

The Circus Parade by Katharine Pyle

The Daffodils by William Wordsworth

The Flag Goes By by Henry H. Bennett

The King's Breakfast by A. A. Milne

The Prayer of Cyrus Brown by Sam Walter Foss

The Secret of Happiness by Helen Steiner Rice

The Sugar-Plum Tree by Eugene Field

The Umbrella Brigade by Laura Richards

The Violet by Jane Taylor

The Wind by E. Rendall

Trees by Grace Oakes Burton

Us Two by A. A. Milne

When Grandpa Was a Boy by Dorothy Walters (Recitation for a Boy)

Winter Fun by Edna Jaques

Your Neighbor by E. Howard Biggar

Grade 5 Poetry Samples

All Things Beautiful by Cecil Frances Alexander

Arithmetic by Carl Sandburg

Brighten the Corner Where You Are by Helen Steiner Rice

Christ and the Little Ones by Julia Gill

Drop a Pebble in the Water by James W. Foley

Fear by Martha Snell Nicholson

Fred by Eleanor Farjeon

Grandpapa's Spectacles by Author Unknown

It Couldn't Be Done by Edgar A. Guest

Johnny Appleseed by Rosemary and Stephen V. Benét

My Kingdom by Louisa May Alcott

October by Edgar A. Guest

Only a Little Thing by M. P. Handy

Partridge Time by Edgar A. Guest

Pilgrim Song—Then and Now by George Lunt

The American Flag by Louise Adney

The Concord Hymn by Ralph Waldo Emerson

The Doctor by Edgar A. Guest

The First Snow by Robert Freeman Bound

The Gingercake Man by James Foley

The Joy of a Dog by Edgar A. Guest

The Pearl by Ernestine Cobern Beyer

The Potter by Norman P. Woodruff

The Pup by Edgar A. Guest

The Red Sea by Martha Snell Nicholson

The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost

The Rough Little Rascal by Edgar A. Guest

The Touch of the Master's Hand by Myra Welch

The World We Make by Alfred Grant Walton

The World's Bible by Annie Johnson Flint

Thy Will Be Done by Helen Steiner Rice

Too Many Daves by Dr. Seuss

Up to the Ceiling by Edgar A. Guest

What Christ Said by George MacDonald

Who Knows a Mountain? by Ethel Romig Fuller

Grade 6 Poetry Samples

A Psalm of Life by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Barbara Frietchie by John Greenleaf Whittier

Castor Oil by Edgar A. Guest

Columbus by Joaquin Miller

Daniel Boone by Arthur Guiterman

How Do You Tackle Your Work? by Edgar A. Guest

If by Rudyard Kipling

In Times Like These by Helen Steiner Rice

Live Christmas Every Day by Helen Steiner Rice

Ma and the Auto by Edgar A. Guest

Marco Comes Late by Dr. Seuss

Mother's Glasses by Edgar A. Guest

Mother's Ugly Hands by Mary Mason

Nathan Hale by Francis Miles Finch

One, Two, Three by Harry C. Bunner

Peace Hymn of the Republic by Henry van Dyke

Problem Child by J. E. Faulker

Thanksgiving by Edgar A. Guest

The Ant and the Cricket adapted from Aesop's Fables

The Blind Men and the Elephant by John Godfrey Sax

The Children's Hour by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The Country Mouse and the City Mouse by Richard Scrafton Sharpe

The Dreams by Eugene Field

The Dying Father by Les Cox

The House with Nobody in It by Joyce Kilmer

The Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers by Felicia Hemans

The Lost Purse by Edgar A. Guest

The Real Successes by Edgar A. Guest

The Sandpiper by Celia Thaxter

The Scoffer by Edgar A. Guest

The Singer's Revenge by Edgar A. Guest

The Spider and the Fly by Mary Howitt

The Story of Albrecht Dürer by Helen Steiner Rice

The Village Blacksmith by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

To the Flag adapted from Leland Scott and Grace Bush

To the Humble by Edgar A. Guest

Vacation Time by Edgar A. Guest

When Pa Comes Home by Edgar A. Guest

Grades 2-4 Fable and Folklore Samples

The following titles are sample selections. Students may select comparable material from other sources.

The Ants and the Grasshopper by *Aesop's Fables*

The ant, like the bee, has long been held up as a paradigm of industriousness. Proverbs 6:6-8 says, "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest" (NKJV).

Belling the Cat by *Aesop's Fables*

It is one thing to say that something should be done, but quite a different matter to do it.

The Boy and the Nuts by *Aesop's Fables*

One good, practical reason for controlling our cravings is that if we grasp for too much, we may end up getting nothing at all.

The Boy Who Cried Wolf by *Aesop's Fables*

This may be Aesop's most famous fable, and for good reason. The fastest way to lose our "good reputation" is to lose our honesty.

Chicken Little *Traditional*

Mark Twain once said he had known a lot of troubles in his life, and most of them never happened. We imagine many of our fears into existence. To avoid foolish cowardice, refrain from too much mountain making out of molehills. Courage, said Plato, is knowing what not to fear.

The Country Mouse and the City Mouse by *Aesop's Fables*

Poverty with security is better than plenty in the midst of fear and uncertainty.

The Fox and the Crow by *Aesop's Fables*

Vanity is largely a matter of self-control, or lack of it. Others may try to feed our ego, but it is up to us to control it.

George Washington and the Cherry Tree by *J. Berg Esenwein, Marietta Stockard*

The chopping down of the cherry tree is surely the most famous truth-telling tale in America. It first appeared in 1806 in the fifth edition of Mason Lock Weems' imaginative biography of Washington, *The Life of George Washington with Curious Anecdotes, Equally Honourable to Himself and Exemplary to His Young Countrymen*.

The Goose and the Golden Egg by *Aesop's Fables*

If you try to get more, you may end up with even less than you started with.

The Honest Woodman by *Jean de La Fontaine, adapted from Emilie Poulsson*

A retelling of Fontaine's adaptation of Aesop's Mercury and the Woodman that teaches that honesty is the best policy.

The Lion and the Mouse by *Aesop's Fables*

One of the oldest and best-loved stories of kindness paid and repaid. From it we learn that the power of compassion has been found within both the mighty and the meek. Kindness is not a feeble virtue.

The Little Red Hen and the Grain of Wheat *Traditional Folk Tale*

From this longtime favorite, we learn, as it says in the third chapter of Genesis, "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food."

Little Sunshine *Retold by Etta Austin Blaisdell and Mary Frances Blaisdell*

Bestowing compassion is like offering most other gifts: often it's the thought that counts.

The Old Hound by *Aesop's Fables*

No one should be blamed for his infirmities.

The Sheep and the Pig Who Built a House *Retold by Carolyn Sherwin Bailey*

This Scandinavian tale is a good companion for "The Little Red Hen." In this story, there's no shortage of animals willing to pitch in and help.

Grades 5-6 Patriotic Oration Samples

The following titles are sample selections. Comparable material may be chosen from other sources, such as the Book of America Series I and II. Length of selections should be approximately 300-500 words. Patriotic poems are not appropriate for this category.

A Disappointed Woman by *Lucy Stone*

Lucy Stone (1818–1893) was a pioneering champion of women’s rights and was active as well in the temperance and abolitionist movements. Stone was well-known for her decision to retain her own name after marriage. She was a founder of the American Woman’s Suffrage Association and was editor of Boston’s Women’s Journal, assisted by her husband, Henry Brown Blackwell, and her daughter, Alice Stone Blackwell.

A Father’s Prayer by *General Douglas MacArthur*

Ain’t I a Woman? by *Sojourner Truth*

Sojourner Truth (1797–1883) was born a slave in New York State and was emancipated by that state in 1828. She traveled throughout the North preaching religion, abolitionism, and women’s rights. In 1850, she attended the First National Women’s Rights Convention in Worcester, Massachusetts, and the following year she spoke at the Ohio Women’s Rights Convention. Her words were transcribed by Frances Gage, the convention’s organizer, and printed in the 1878 edition of the Narrative of Sojourner Truth.

Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by *Anne Frank*

Anne’s letter to Kitty dated January 13, 1943 describes the suffering brought by the war.

Antislavery Convention Address by *Angelina Grimke*

National Antislavery Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: May 16, 1838

Angelina and Sarah Grimke, sisters from South Carolina who moved to Philadelphia and became Quakers, were active in the abolitionist movement and were frequent lecturers on the evils of slavery and the right of women to speak and work publicly for social issues. In 1836, Angelina Grimke (1805–1879) caused a furor with her widely distributed pamphlet *An Appeal to the Christian Women of the South*, which was burned in South Carolina. The building in which she addressed an antislavery convention in May 1838 was surrounded by an angry mob and pelted with stones during her speech and consumed by fire a few days later.

Apologia by *Christopher Columbus, The Patriot’s Handbook*

In 1492, when he stepped upon the shore of the little Caribbean island of San Salvador, Christopher Columbus ushered in a new age of exploration and settlement the likes which the world had never seen. He also greatly contributed to the providential perspective of American history—a view that asserts the directing hand of almighty God—through the publication of his *Book of Prophecies* some 10 years later. This short excerpt gives a glimpse of that perspective and captures the essence of the Admiral of the Ocean Seas’ extraordinary worldview.

Be Ye Men of Valour by *Winston C. Churchill*

Excerpt of radio broadcast on May 19, 1940, Winston C. Churchill addressed the people of Great Britain, bringing them up to date regarding the German army’s advance to overtake Europe, the battles in France, and the nearness of those battles to the British Isles.

Benjamin Franklin Speaks by *Benjamin Franklin*

Essays to Do Good by *Cotton Mather*

One of the most brilliant and prolific of the early colonists, Cotton Mather was the scion of a prominent family of academics and clerics. His more than three hundred published works, spanning an astonishing array of subjects and disciplines, helped to establish the substantive cultural tenor of the Massachusetts colony. Perhaps his most famous book, *Essays to Do Good*, excerpted here, reiterated Governor Winthrop’s call for America to be a beacon light of charity and grace to the world.

“Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death!” by *Patrick Henry*

1775 Address to the House

I Have a Dream by *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered this speech at the Lincoln Memorial, in Washington, DC, on August 28, 1963. He was speaking to a huge crowd of people who had marched into Washington in support of civil rights legislation.

Letter to Governor George Clinton by *George Washington*

Valley Forge, 16 February, 1778

Men of Color, to Arms! by *Frederick Douglass*

Frederick Douglass, born a slave, escaped to the North at age 19 and became involved in the antislavery movement. He became a great lecturer and an agent of the American Antislavery Society. During the Civil War he, and other black leaders, urged black men to enlist as soldiers in the Union Army. After the war, he assumed many political offices and advocated constitutional reform to grant equal citizenship rights regardless of race or color.

Grades 5-6 Patriotic Oration Samples (continued)

Motion for Prayers in the Convention by Benjamin Franklin

Motion made June 28, 1787

Robert E. Lee's Letter to His Son by Robert E. Lee

School Prayer by Robert C. Byrd

Delivered to Congress just two days after the Supreme Court declared prayer in schools unconstitutional.

Temperance and Women's Rights by Elizabeth Cady Stanton

From 1851 Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815–1902) were partners in the combined crusade for women's suffrage, abolitionism, and temperance. In the earlier years Stanton, unlike Anthony, was busy raising a large family; she nevertheless served as president of the Women's State Temperance Society in New York and spoke publicly on these important issues.

Women's State Temperance Society Convention, Rochester, New York; 1853

The Declaration of Independence (*Suggested: Excerpts from Preamble and Conclusion*)

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress, representing the thirteen original colonies of the United States, adopted a resolution unanimously declaring the colonies' independence from Great Britain. The document was penned by Thomas Jefferson.

The Gettysburg Address by Abraham Lincoln

The Whistle by Benjamin Franklin

You will hear it said many times that experience is a hard teacher. It can also be a good teacher, as this story shows. Benjamin Franklin was one of the wise men of his time. He realized that what we amount to in later life is largely the result of the kind of habits we form when we are young. This story is about one of the lessons he learned as a boy, and you can see how it influenced his life. Perhaps there are lessons that you are learning today or have already learned that will affect your future as much as the lesson of "the whistle" affected Franklin's life.

Grades 5-6 Dramatic Bible Prose Samples

The following selections are samples. Students should select comparable material from other sources.

Daniel's Testimony of Faith *Based on Daniel 6:1–28*

As a young boy, Daniel had been taken captive from Jerusalem and groomed to serve the king of Babylon. He was a faithful servant to the king, but never did he compromise his faith and devotion to God. Daniel openly prayed daily to the God of Israel.

Daniel found favor in the eyes of the king and was promoted to a high position within the kingdom.

However, several other men of high position became jealous of Daniel and set a trap that would sentence Daniel to death.

These men came before the king and asked for a decree stating that whoever presented a petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to the king, should be thrown into the den of lions. The unsuspecting king was flattered and signed the decree, which was designed to destroy Daniel.

When Daniel heard of the decree, he went to his window, knelt down, and prayed to God as he had always done. This time however the jealous men were watching and ran to the king to remind him of the decree, and the punishment. Then they told the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the captives from Judah, has no regard for you or for the decree that you signed."

The king was upset with himself and looked for a way to deliver Daniel from the punishment. But at sundown the men came to the king and reminded him that the decree could not be changed, and the king commanded that Daniel be thrown into the den of lions.

The king spoke to Daniel, saying, "Your God whom you serve continually, He will deliver you." Then a stone was placed at the opening of the den, sealing Daniel in the den with the lions. The king went to his palace and fasted all night on Daniel's behalf.

First thing in the morning, the king went to the den and cried out to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you serve continually been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Daniel responded, "O king, live forever. My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they have not hurt me because I was innocent before Him; and also, O king, I have done you no wrong."

The king excitedly commanded that Daniel be taken out of the den, and he commanded that those men who had accused Daniel be cast into the den of lions. Then the king wrote to all people, nations, and languages that lived within his kingdom, a new decree:

"I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for He is the living God and steadfast forever; His kingdom shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall endure to the end."

Because of his faith in God, and because God was faithful to protect him, the name of the Lord was exalted throughout the kingdom. And Daniel prospered under the reign of Darius, king of Persia.

Grades 5-6 Dramatic Bible Prose Samples (continued)

Samaritan on the Road *Based on Luke 10:25–37*

One day a man tried to trick Jesus with some questions. He was an expert on religious law. He wanted Jesus to say the wrong thing about the law so that people would not follow Him.

“What must I do to live forever?” the man asked.

“You should know the answer to that,” Jesus replied. “What do you find in the law?”

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself,” the man replied.

“You have given the right answer to your own question,” Jesus told him. “If you do this, you will live forever.”

But the man still wanted to trick Jesus. So he asked another question.

“Who is my neighbor?” he asked.

Jesus then told this story to answer the man’s question:

“One of our own Jewish men was traveling on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes and money, beat him up, and left him half dead by the road.

“Not long after that, one of our own priests came along the road. When he saw this injured man lying there, he passed by on the other side of the road. Then a Levite, who helps in our Jewish religious work, came by. He took one look at the poor man, then went on his way.

“After that, a Samaritan came down the road. As you know, you people all hate the Samaritans. But when he saw this poor man lying beside the road, he felt sorry for him. He knelt down, put some medicine on his wounds, and bandaged them. Then he laid the man carefully on his donkey and took him to an inn.

“The Samaritan stayed with this poor injured man until he was sure that he was all right. The next day he gave the innkeeper two coins, worth two days’ wages, and told him to take care of the man while he was gone.

“If you must spend more to get this fellow well, I will pay you when I return,” the Samaritan told the innkeeper.”

When Jesus had finished His story, He looked at the expert in Jewish law, who had tried to trick Him. “Which of these three men was a good neighbor to the injured man?”

“The one who was kind to him and helped him,” the man answered.

“Then you must go and be that kind of neighbor too,” Jesus told him.

Grades 5-6 Dramatic Bible Prose Samples (continued)

A Son Comes Home *Based on Luke 15:11–24*

A certain father had two sons, and the youngest of them was not content with living at home. This young man was sure he could do better for himself out in the world, on his own, and he was eager to leave his family to begin a new life.

One day he said to his father, “Father, give me the part of your inheritance that belongs to me.” Fulfilling his son’s request, the father divided his belongings and gave the young man his share.

Several days later, the son had gathered all his belongings and left home to live as he wished. He traveled a long distance, into another country. There he became involved in a riotous, wild lifestyle that seemed pleasurable to him for the time.

But as time passed, the son’s money and supply of goods began to run low, and there was no one to give him any more. Still he continued in his sinful, reckless way of living until the day when he had nothing left, and his clothing, was rags. Moreover, there was a terrible famine in the land, and it was difficult to find food. Neither did he have a place to live or a bed for rest.

He needed to work, but work was hard to find. Eventually a man gave him a job feeding pigs. The son was so hungry, he willingly would have eaten the corn husks he was feeding to the pigs, but they were not offered to him. One day, in desolation, the young man realized that even his father’s servants had plenty to eat and some left over while he himself was starving. He decided to go back to his father and ask forgiveness for all he had done, and he left the faraway country and headed for home.

While he was still a distance from the house, the father saw his son and ran to him, hugging and kissing him and welcoming him home.

“I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son,” the young man said.

But the father called for his servants to bring clean clothes, the very best robe, and shoes for his son’s feet and a ring for his hand. Then the father planned a welcome celebration. “For my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found,” he said.

And just as the father rejoiced over the return of his lost son, our Heavenly Father rejoices over a lost soul that comes to Him.

Grades 7-8 Dramatic Poetry Sample

The following selection is a sample. Students should select comparable material from other sources.

Note: Some selections may be too short to meet the minimum time requirement. Students may use one of these in combination with another short piece, probably on a similar theme or by the same author.

The Great Surprise: The Story of Zacchaeus by Mary Warren (St. Louis, MO: Concordia, 1964)

Zacchaeus was a publican.
He served a hated king,
Collecting gold and silver
To pay for everything,
Like soldiers, roads,
and city walls,
and statues carved from stone.

Some publicans took extra gold
And kept it for their own.
Most people hated publicans.
They said:
“They’re mean!”
“They cheat.”

And so good people turned away
Whenever they would meet
The publicans around the town
Or walking down the street.

When Jesus met a publican,
He smiled and greeted him.
He didn’t care
what others thought

Or if they acted grim.
He loved all kinds of people.
He was friendly with the mean,
the selfish,
and the sickly,
and those who were not clean.

He knew so many couldn’t choose
The sort of life they had,
And many others didn’t know
That they were being bad;
And even if they knew inside,

It made his heart feel sad.
Zacchaeus once was going home
When there, along the way,
He saw a crowd and, curious,
He thought he’d rather stay.
“You say this man is Jesus?
May I go near to see?”

I want to know what He is like ...
But—OW! You’re trampling me!
Please tell me what this huddle
And this muddle is about.” He begged,
and teased,
and pushed,
and squeezed,
and then began to shout:
“I’m chief collector For the King!
How dare you leave me out.”

Zacchaeus ran and climbed a tree.
He wished he weren’t so small;
But Jesus saw him there and stopped.
Zacchaeus heard him call:
“Come down, Zacchaeus, right away,
And take me home with you.”
The people stared with angry looks
And some began to stew.
They muttered, “What a place to pick—
The home of such a fake!
Don’t tell us Jesus doesn’t know—
He does for goodness’ sake!
It is a mystery to us
The friends He likes to make!”

Zacchaeus climbed down happy
With a sparkle in his eyes.
He shivered from excitement.
He felt a bigger size!
It made him feel so popular!

A messenger soon ran
Ahead to tell the news of this
To all Zacchaeus’ clan.
A feast they started to prepare;
The servants roasted meat.
When Jesus got there later on,
One washed His dusty feet;
Another brought a lovely robe.

Then it was time to eat.
It took a while to eat such food!
They sat and talked, and when
Zacchaeus saw how Jesus’ love
Could change the hearts of men,
He said to Jesus:
“I don’t think
Of anyone but me!
The extra money that I take,
It’s very plain to see,
Makes others poor, and here I sit
As wealthy as a king!
Before another day goes by,
I’ll do an honest thing.

My clothes and food and all I own
I shall divide in two.
I’ll take half to the poorer folk
And ...I know what I’ll do!
What I owe to any man
I’ll multiply by four.
I’ll start to pay my debts today,
And I will cheat no more!”
His children shouted out: “Hooray!”
“I’ll share some toys of mine!”
His wife and servants also cheered:
“We think this sounds just fine!”

When Jesus rose to leave, He said:
“I’ve had a splendid stay!
Zacchaeus, it does give me joy
To know you feel this way,
And you will find that this has been
A very special day!”

Grades 7-8 Humorous Poetry Sample

The following selection is a sample. Students should select comparable material from other sources.

Note: Some selections may be too short to meet the minimum time requirement. Students may use one of these in combination with another short piece, probably on a similar theme or by the same author.

Casey's Revenge

by James Wilson, being a reply to the famous baseball classic, *Casey at the Bat*

There were saddened hearts in Mudville
for a week or even more;
There were muttered oaths and curses—
every fan in town was sore.
“Just think,” said one, “how soft it looked
with Casey at the bat!
And then to think he’d go and spring a
bush-league trick like that.”

All his past fame was forgotten; he was
now a hopeless “shine,”
They called him “Strike-out Casey” from
the mayor down the line,
And as he came to bat each day his
bosom heaved a sigh,
While a look of helpless fury shone
in mighty Casey’s eye.

The lane is long, someone has said, that
never turns again,
And Fate, though fickle, often gives
another chance to men.
And Casey smiled—his rugged face no
longer wore a frown;
The pitcher who had started all the trouble
came to town.

All Mudville had assembled; ten thousand
fans had come
To see the twirler who had put big Casey
on the bum;
And when he stepped inside the box, the
multitude went wild.
He doffed his cap in proud disdain—but
Casey only smiled.
“Play ball!” the umpire’s voice rang out,
and then the game began;
But in that throng of thousands there was
not a single fan

Who thought that Mudville had a
chance; and with the setting sun
Their hopes sank low—the rival team
was leading four to one.

The last half of the ninth came round,
with no change in the score;
But when the first man up hit safe the
crowd began to roar.

The din increased, the echo of ten
thousand shouts was heard
When the pitcher hit the second and
gave “four balls” to the third.

Three men on base—nobody out—
three runs to tie the game!
A triple meant the highest niche in
Mudville’s hall of fame;
But here the rally ended, and the
gloom was deep as night,
When the fourth one “fouled to
catcher” and the fifth “flew out to
right.”

A dismal groan in chorus came—a
scowl was on each face—
When Casey walked up, bat in hand,
and slowly took his place;
His bloodshot eyes in fury gleamed;
His teeth were clinched in hate;
He gave his cap a vicious hook and
pounded on the plate.

But fame is fleeting as the wind, and
glory fades away;
There were no wild or woolly cheers,
no glad acclaim this day.
They hissed and groaned and hooted
as they clamored, “Strike him out!”
But Casey gave no outward sign that
he had heard their shout.

The pitcher smiled and cut one
loose; across the plate it spread;
Another hiss, another groan. “Strike
one!” the umpire said.

Zip! Like a shot, the second curve
broke just below his knee—
“Strike two!” the umpire roared
aloud; but Casey made no plea.

No roasting for the umpire now—his
was an easy lot;
But here the pitcher whirled again—
was that a rifle shot?

A Whack! A Crack! And out through
space the leather pellet flew,
A blot against the distant sky, a
speck against the blue.

Above the fence in center field, in
rapid whirling flight,
The sphere sailed on; the blot grew
dim and then was lost to sight.
Ten thousand hats were thrown in
air, ten thousand threw a fit;
But no one ever found the ball that
mighty Casey hit!

Oh, somewhere in this favored land
dark clouds may hide the sun,
And somewhere bands no longer
play and children have no fun;
And somewhere over blighted lives
there hangs a heavy pall;
But Mudville hearts are happy now—
for Casey hit the ball!

Grades 7-8 Dramatic Reading (Prose) Sample

The following selection is a sample. Students should select comparable material. Selections may be cut from a play, an essay, a Bible story, etc. (Poetry is not appropriate for this category.)

Note: Some selections may be too short to meet the minimum time requirement. Students may use one of these in combination with another short piece, probably on a similar theme or by the same author.

The Chest of Broken Glass

Responsibilities of parents and children toward each other change with age. This tale is about that time in life when caring about someone means taking care of them. The obligation to “honor thy father and mother” does not end when father and mother grow old.

Once there was an old man who had lost his wife and lived all alone. He had worked hard as a tailor all his life, but misfortunes had left him penniless, and now he was so old he could no longer work for himself. His hands trembled too much to thread a needle, and his vision had blurred too much for him to make a straight stitch. He had three sons, but they were all grown and married now, and they were so busy with their own lives, they only had time to stop by and eat dinner with their father once a week.

Gradually the old man grew more and more feeble, and his sons came by to see him less and less. “They don’t want to be around me at all now,” he told himself, “because they’re afraid I’ll become a burden.” He stayed up all night worrying what would become of him, until at last he thought of a plan.

The next morning he went to see his friend the carpenter and asked him to make a large chest. Then he went to see his friend the locksmith and asked him to give him an old lock. Finally he went to see his friend the glassblower and asked for all the old broken pieces of glass he had.

The old man took the chest home, filled it to the top with broken glass, locked it up tight, and put it beneath his kitchen table. The next time his sons came for dinner, they bumped their feet against it.

“What’s in this chest?” they asked, looking under the table.

“Oh, nothing,” the old man replied, “just some things I’ve been saving.”

His sons nudged it and saw how heavy it was. They kicked it and heard a rattling inside. “It must be full of all the gold he’s saved over the years,” they whispered to one another.

So they talked it over and realized they needed to guard the treasure. They decided to take turns living with the old man, and that way they could look after him, too. So the first week the youngest son moved in with his father and cared and cooked for him. The next week the middle son took his place, and the week after that the eldest son took a turn. This went on for some time.

At last the old father grew sick and died. The sons gave him a very nice funeral, for they knew there was a fortune sitting beneath the kitchen table, and they could afford to splurge a little on the old man now.

When the service was over, they hunted through the house until they found the key, and unlocked the chest. And of course they found it full of broken glass.

“What a rotten trick!” yelled the eldest son. “What a cruel thing to do to your own sons!” “But what else could he have done, really?” asked the middle son sadly. “We must be honest with ourselves. If it wasn’t for this chest, we would have neglected him until the end of his days.”

“I’m so ashamed of myself,” sobbed the youngest. “We forced our own father to stoop to deceit, because we would not observe the very commandment he taught us when we were young.”

But the eldest son tipped the chest over to make sure there was nothing valuable hidden among the glass after all. He poured the broken pieces onto the floor until it was empty. Then the three brothers silently stared inside, where they now read an inscription left for them on the bottom: Honor Thy Father and Mother.

Grades 7-8 Humorous Reading (Prose) Sample

The following selection is a sample. Students should select comparable material. Selections may be cut from a play, an essay, a Bible story, etc. (Poetry is not appropriate for this category.)

Note: *Some selections may be too short to meet the minimum time requirement. Students may use one of these in combination with another short piece, probably on a similar theme or by the same author.*

The Brass Cannon by Robert Benchley. *To be read very quietly and gravely, including the punch line.*

One is reminded (and, let us be quite frank about it, when I say “one is reminded” I mean “I am reminded”) of the business troubles of the man who polished the commemorative brass cannon in Ypsilanti, Michigan. (I have always heard that it was Ypsilanti, Michigan. But I am willing to retract if it is not true.) It seems that the residents of Ypsilanti, Michigan, shortly after the Civil War decided that some sort of monument should be placed in a public square to remind future generations of Michigan’s part in the great struggle. So a large brass commemorative cannon was placed on the common (if there is a common in Ypsilanti) and a veteran of the war was engaged, at a nominal salary, to keep this cannon in good condition. He was to polish it twice a week and see that small boys did not hide in it. Aside from this, his time was his own.

This business routine went on for 25 years. The veteran was faithful at his task of polishing the commemorative brass cannon, and its splendor and shining surface were the admiration of everyone who visited Ypsilanti, Michigan, during those 25 years, to say nothing of the natives. “The commemorative brass cannon of Ypsilanti, Michigan,” became a byword throughout the state for expressing how shiny a commemorative brass cannon could be made.

One evening, during the veteran’s twenty-sixth year of service, he came home to supper at his usual hour (4:30), but his wife noticed that he was more depressed than was his wont. He hardly touched his food and sat in moody contemplation of the backs of his polish-stained hands. His wife was worried, “What is it, Joe?” she asked. “What is the matter?”

“Oh, nothing, my dear,” said her husband, and turned in a brave attempt to finish his cutlet.

“Come, come,” said the companion of his twenty-five years of labor (he had married immediately on getting the job of polishing the commemorative brass cannon), “I know that something is wrong. You are depressed.” The gray-haired man put down his knife and looked his wife in the eye.

“You’re right,” he said, as he took her hand in his. “I am depressed. Things haven’t been going very well down at the cannon lately.”

“You don’t mean that you’re fired, Joe!” she said fearfully.

“No, no! Never fear about that,” was his reply. “They couldn’t fire me. I know too much. They would be afraid that I might make trouble. But I am discouraged about my work. I don’t seem to be getting ahead. For twenty-five years I have been polishing that cannon and putting everything that I had into making it bright and shiny. I have done my job well—no one can deny that. But recently I have got to thinking. What is it leading to? Where am I getting? Where is the future in polishing commemorative brass cannons?” And the old man broke down and cried.

His wife was silent for a minute. Then she stroked his head and said, “I know, Joe. I have worried a little myself. And I have figured it out this way. In the last twenty-five years we have saved a little money. I have put aside a dollar here and a dollar there when you didn’t know about it. We have quite a tidy little nest egg in the bank now, and here is my suggestion: Let’s take that money, buy a cannon, and go into business for ourselves!”

Grades 7-8 Costumed Dramatic Monologue Sample

The following selection is a sample. Students should select comparable material from other sources.

Note: Some selections may be too short to meet the minimum time requirement. Students may use one of these in combination with another short piece, probably on a similar theme or by the same author.

Mary Magdalene from *Heart Cries* by Mary Lou Carney

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said; “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!” (John 20:1–2).

O God—when will this nightmare end!

Is there no limit to the cruelty of the Romans, the treachery of the Sanhedrin? Now they have taken His body!

The spices I have brought to anoint Him lie at my feet in mocking silence. Isn’t it enough they scourged Him, humiliated Him, crucified Him? Did they then have to steal His mangled body from Joseph’s tomb, denying Him even the rites of burial?

But what do they hope to gain?

This makes no sense, no sense at all ... but then nothing in Jerusalem has made sense these last few days.

Only a week ago Jesus rode into the city while the people waved palm branches and pledged their allegiance, shouting “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Such allegiance!

Those are the same people who only a few days later clamored for the release of that scum Barabbas—and demanded that Jesus be crucified.

I cannot bear to think my Master will not have the simple rites of death!

God, I hate them!

I hate them all—those pious, scheming priests, that self-centered Sanhedrin.

They are all hypocrites whose mouths mumbled Scripture while their hearts planned His murder!

Oh, to be a man—a man with the courage and strength of Samson! Then I would rip out the hearts of those cowardly dogs who cluster in the Temple licking their chops savoring their victory.

And my laughter would drown the sounds of their death groans.

How my mouth waters for the taste of vengeance!

But even as my anger burns, O God, I hear the voice of my gentle Jesus saying, “Love your enemies.”

Love! How is that possible?

Standing here in the garden, I feel the flush of rage on my face, the rush of blood that leaves my hands tingling for revenge.

I can’t do it.

I can’t love those enemies—the very ones who nailed my Rabboni to the cross!

O God, you whom Jesus called Father, free me from this consuming hatred as once your son freed me from Satan’s evil spirits.

God of all power, allow me—somehow—to complete this last act of devotion.

Teach me anew to trust you—or my hopes and dreams will remain as dead as the crucified Christ.

Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” “They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put Him.” At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. “Woman,” he said, “Why are you crying, who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!”
—(John 20:11–16, 18a)

Grades 7-8 Costumed Humorous Monologue Sample

The following selection is a sample. Students should select comparable material from other sources.

Note: Some selections may be too short to meet the minimum time requirement. Students may use one of these in combination with another shorter piece, probably on a similar theme or by the same author.

Can You Hold Please? *From Drama Skits and Sketches by Youth Specialties (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997)*

A man or woman is seated at an office desk covered with paperwork, which obviously consumes the worker's time. A telephone and calculator are on the desk; a wall calendar hangs conspicuously within arm's reach. The phone rings.

Hello, Nancy speaking ... Jesus? Jesus who? ... uh huh ... *(Phone rings)* Can you hold please? *(Switches lines)* Hello, Nancy speaking ... Oh, hi honey ... Sure, what do you need? ... uh huh ... yeah, I'll pick it up. White or whole wheat? ... Okay ... right, and four rolls of pastel blue two-ply ... Sure, I'll run by there ... oh, I forgot about that ... yes, I'll meet you at the restaurant at, oh, say eight tonight ... okay, see you then ... *(Crosses Monday off calendar)* ... bye-bye, sweetheart. *(Returns to the original call)* Thanks for holding. Okay, how can I help you? ... Are you looking for a donation? ... What's the cause? *(Phone rings)* Sorry, can you hold again? *(Switches lines)* Hello ... yes sir ... yes sir ... of course, Mr. Jones ... Thursday? ... Sure, I don't see why not. How late do you think it will run? ... uh huh ... okay, Thursday it is. *(Crosses Thursday off the calendar and returns to first caller)* Thanks for waiting. Now what did you say you wanted? ... *(Cradles the receiver on her shoulder, occupies herself with paperwork as she listens, obviously apathetic about the call)* ... uh huh ... and this is for which cause? *(Phone rings)* I'm sorry, can you hold please? *(Switches lines)* Hello, Nancy here. How are you, Sue? ... Really? Great! So you're joining the health club, too? ... Yeah, gotta take some pounds off, as usual ... I'd love to give you a ride on Tuesday ... okay ... *(Crosses Tuesday off)* ... Bye. *(Returns to original call)* All right now, what is it you're wanting? ... *(Writes memos and notes obviously unrelated to her conversation, punches calculator keys)* ... Gee, I don't know ... yeah ... well, I'd rather not get involved right now ... *(Phone rings)* ... Can you hold please? *(Switches lines)* Hello?... Hi, Tom ... yeah, I thought the kids responded well to my lesson last Sunday ... sure, we'd better get down to planning that retreat ... Friday night's open ... Okay, Tom, see you Friday *(Returns to original call)* Hello? You know, I just don't think I ... yes, I know, but ... That's true, but ... of course ... I understand, but I still don't want ... *(Phone rings)* I'm sorry, can you hold please? *(Switches lines)* Hello, Nancy speaking ... Hi, Miriam ... it is? ... where is it showing? ... all right, I'll get the tickets for ... let's see ... *(Studies calendar and crosses off Wednesday)* ... for Wednesday ... okay, bye. *(Returns to first call)* Yeah, I'm back ... yes I know it doesn't require much time, but I ... I know that ... look, I'd rather ... no, you're not asking too much, it's just that I ... *(Phone rings)* Can you hold please? *(Switches lines)* Hello, Nancy here ... hi, honey ... oh, no, I forgot all about it ... yes, I remember now ... Brian's weekend soccer tournament ... *(Crosses of Saturday and Sunday on the calendar)* ... yeah ... make sure he finishes his homework as soon as he gets home from practice tonight ... okay ... bye-bye, honey. *(Returns to original call)* Look, I've — *(Aloud but to herself)* Funny, he hung up ... *(Looking at calendar)* ... oh well, I was too busy anyway. *(Hangs up phone, puts on coat, and walks out, briefcase in hand)*

Grades 7-8 Visual Aid Sample

The following selection is a sample. Students should select comparable material from other sources.

Note: Some selections may be too short to meet the minimum time requirement. Students may use one of these in combination with another shorter piece, probably on a similar theme or by the same author.

Real or Counterfeit? From *Teaching with Objects* by Carl E. Lindgren (Wheaton, IL: Scripture Press)

Bible Verses: Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My father who is in heaven (Matthew 10:32–33, NKJV).

Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven (Matthew 7:21, NKJV).

Materials: Play money from the dime store and a real dollar bill.

Lesson: Printing one’s own money is called counterfeiting, and one who prints his own money is known as a counterfeiter. One of the most notorious counterfeiters in our country for some years was a man known to government agents simply as number 880. They assigned this number to him before they knew his name or identity. However, he was the object of one of the greatest manhunts in the government’s history.

Most counterfeiters print a large sum of money in big bills—\$10, \$20, or \$50—and try to get rich overnight. But number 880 was different. He printed only \$1 bills. He passed only a few each month and always to different persons. Soon his fake dollars were showing up all over New York City.

Now, you might think that counterfeiting \$1 bills isn’t so bad. But the government didn’t feel that way. Counterfeiting is breaking the law. Government men set traps for the counterfeiter all over the city. Somehow number 880 always managed to escape. The FBI searched for nearly 10 years before they finally caught him—and then it was only by accident.

Number 880 lived alone in a New York apartment with only an old dog for company. He had tried, years before, to earn a living by picking up junk and scrap metal. But this had not brought in enough money to buy food for himself and his dog. So he decided to print his own money on a small hand printing press in his kitchen. This had worked fine for 10 whole years.

But one day while he was out, a fire started in his apartment. Not much damage was done, but the men who cleaned up the rubbish threw out a pile of counterfeit money and the plates from which the bills were printed. They thought the bills were only play money.

Some boys found the bills and took them home. Their father recognized [the bills] as counterfeit money, so he called the police. They, in turn, called government agents, who hurried to the apartment. Imagine their surprise when they found a sweet-looking man in his 70s with a big smile, looking for all the world like a kindly old grandfather! No one would ever suspect him of being a counterfeiter. Yet he was. The printing press and counterfeit bills were ample evidence.

In court, old number 880 told the judge he never meant to hurt anyone. After all, he had passed out only \$1 bills. But the \$1 bills had added up. In ten years number 880 had passed more than \$7,000 worth of fake money. Don’t you see that number 880 had broken the law just the same by passing \$1 bills as if he had passed \$100 bills? His lawyer asked the judge to have mercy on him because the counterfeiter was more than 70 years old. The judge did feel sorry for the old man, but counterfeiting is no joke; it is a serious offense. As a counterfeiter, he had to be punished. So this kindly old man, who kept insisting that he had not meant to be dishonest, went to prison to pay for his crime.

(*Show play money.*) This money is marked nonnegotiable, which means that it cannot be used for real money. It is printed on purpose to be used for play money. But a counterfeiter doesn’t mark his money nonnegotiable. He makes his imitation money look as much like real money as he can, in order to trick or cheat people. He tries to pass it off as the real thing.

No doubt, all of you smugly feel that you will never be tempted to print your own money and become a counterfeiter, like old number 880. But do you realize that you can easily become a spiritual counterfeiter by pretending to be a real Christian when you are not?

Grades 7-8 Visual Aid Sample (continued)

Real or Counterfeit? (continued)

Judas was such a counterfeiter. He walked and talked and ate and lived with the Lord Jesus and the other 11 disciples for three years. But Judas was only pretending to be Jesus' devoted follower. It seems he never really loved the Lord Jesus or surrendered to Him. When he saw an opportunity to get some easy money, he betrayed the Lord Jesus. His kiss in the Garden of Gethsemane was the act of a counterfeiter, for that kiss was a signal to Jesus' enemies, not a sign of real love. Anyone who merely pretends to be a Christian is a counterfeit Christian. (*Hold up a real dollar bill and a play one.*) It is easy to tell the difference between play money and the real thing. But it is not so easy to tell the difference between a real Christian and one who is only counterfeit. Some seem-to-be-so Christians deceive themselves and others by being able to quote many Bible verses from memory. They may even know all the Bible stories in their Sunday school lesson book and have a perfect attendance record at Sunday school and junior church. Some counterfeiters have been known to read their Bible every day and perhaps give a faked testimony in the evening youth group at church.

Can they count on getting into heaven because they know all the right words and sound like real Christians? They may have fooled everyone—even themselves. No, if they have never confessed to the Lord Jesus that they are sinners, nor received Him as Savior, they are only faking. They only seem to be Christians.

They may imagine, like old number 880, that they are hurting no one. And they may get away with this counterfeiting for most of their lives. But the Lord tells us that everyone will someday have to stand before God, the great Judge. He knows those who are true Christians and those who are counterfeits.

Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven." Counterfeit Christians who have never received the Lord Jesus as Savior cannot really do the will of the Heavenly Father.

Although God, the great Judge, is loving and merciful, and does not want to punish anyone, He is also fair and just. As surely as the judge had to punish old number 880 for counterfeiting money, God will have to punish those who are only counterfeit, seem-to-be-so Christians. Their punishment will be much worse than a jail sentence, for they will be forever separated from the Lord Jesus and those who love Him.

(*Again hold up a play dollar bill.*) No matter what I do to this play money, it will never be real. But the Lord Jesus can change a counterfeit, seem-to-be-so Christian into the real thing! If you would like to be a real Christian today, won't you just now ask the Lord Jesus to forgive your sins and be your Savior? He will make you a real Christian. Then your memory verses and Sunday School lessons, your testimonies and Bible reading will have real meaning. Then, instead of punishment, there will be everlasting happiness with the Lord Jesus reserved in heaven for you.

Grades 7-8 Puppets Sample

The following selection is a sample. Students should select comparable pieces. Students may use published material or write their own script. However, non-published scripts must be approved by the school Coordinator for content and for adherence to category rules.

A Foolish Young Man from *You Can Do Christian Puppets* by Bea Carlton (Colorado Springs, CO: Meriwether, 1989)

Puppets:

• Noah • Young Man • Wife • Minister • Scientist

(Noah moves onto stage with hammer in hand. Hammer may be secured to part of a movable arm and hand with wire or a heavy rubber band. Begins to hammer. Young Man enters from the other end of the stage.)

Young Man: Say there, old man, what is that strange thing that you're building?

Noah: I'm building a boat.

Young Man: A boat? Way up here on the hillside? How will you get it down to the river?

Noah: I'm not building it to float on the river. A great flood is coming on the earth, and I plan to save myself and my family in this ark.

Young Man: How do you know this?

Noah: God told me. God told me how to build this boat, and he said that rain would fall from the heavens and cover the whole earth.

Young Man: Ha-ha-ha. Who ever heard of such a thing? Water covering the whole earth. Ha-ha-ha. I think you're crazy.

Noah: A flood is coming whether you believe it or not. God said so and I believe God! Every living thing that is not in this ark will be killed by the waters.

Young Man: *(Scoffingly)* Why would God destroy the people He made?

Noah: Because people have become so wicked and so violent. They have become so bad that God is sorry He ever made them.

Young Man: Why did God warn you so that you could escape?

Noah: Because I serve God and try to please Him.

Young Man: *(Thoughtfully)* How could I be saved?

Noah: If you will turn away from your wicked ways and help us build the ark, I'm sure God will save you too.

Young Man: I'll go talk to my wife about it right now. And I'll see you later.

Noah: We would be glad to have you join us. But don't wait too long. (Both exit) (Turn back to audience to show time elapsed or scene change)

Young Man: *(Coming on stage)* Wife! Wife! *(Wife appears)* Oh, there you are. Say, we don't have a minute to lose if we want to be saved! There's a man out on the hillside building a big boat and he said ...

Wife: *(Interrupting)* I know what he said. You've been listening to that crazy old man ... Noah. *(Mockingly)* And he said there's a flood coming out of the sky and everyone who doesn't get in his silly boat will be drowned!

Young Man: Don't you believe his story?

Wife: No, I don't! When I was a little girl he was building that ark and preaching that a flood was coming. And a flood hasn't come yet!

Young Man: ... but he seemed so sincere and I felt down in my heart that God had spoken to him. What if Noah is right and we are all drowned because we don't believe?

Wife: I'll tell you what. Go talk to our pastor and see what he says.

Young Man: That's a good idea! I'll go right now. *(Turn back to audience to show time elapsed or scene change.)*

(Minister enters; a knock is heard; minister moves to other end of stage and appears to open door.)

Minister: Come in, my boy, come in! What can I do for you?

Young Man: *(Entering)* I've been talking to Noah. Do you believe that God is really going to destroy the people of the earth with a flood because we are so wicked?

Minister: Ha-ha-ha. Of course not! That old man is a fanatic ... just an old killjoy. People aren't really so bad. I say, "let's eat, drink, and be merry!" Forget about old Noah! You're too young to worry about dying. Have a good time, and let the future take care of itself!

Young Man: *(Doubtfully)* Well ... OK ... if you say so. I guess you should know. *(Turn back to audience to show time elapsed or scene change.)*

Narrator: It is a few days later. *(Young Man and Scientist enter together.)*

Young Man: *(Looking toward the other end of the stage)* What in the world is happening over there?

Scientist: A bunch of animals are going into Noah's boat.

Grades 7-8 Puppets Sample (continued)

A Foolish Young Man (continued)

Young Man: (Excitedly) Then Noah's story is true! And even the animals believe a flood is coming.

Scientist: Don't get excited, young man. I'm a scientist, and I'm sure there is a logical explanation why pairs of animals would file into the ark this way. I've come to study them and discover why.

Young Man: I believe Noah is telling the truth! It may begin to rain any minute! I'm going home and get my wife and get in Noah's ark before it is too late.

Scientist: Do you want people laughing and making fun of you like they do Noah and his family?

Young Man: I'd rather be laughed at than drown! (Turns and walks rapidly away)

Scientist: (Shaking his head as he watches him go) Tut-tut. Poor, ignorant soul. (Exits)

Narrator: It's a few minutes later.

Young Man: (Rushing onto stage out of breath) Wife ... Wife! (She enters) Come quick we've got to get in Noah's ark! Animals ... a male and female of each kind ... are filing into the ark right now. It could start raining any minute!

Wife: (Angrily) I've had enough of this foolishness! I'll not leave my nice home and go live with a bunch of wild animals and be laughed at! Besides, Noah would think the things I like to do are sinful, and I don't plan to quit doing them for anyone!

Young Man: But, Wife, we may drown if—

Wife: Not another word! I'd rather drown than go live with the "holy" preacher and his family! And if you say another word about it, I ... I'll go home to mother!

Young Man: (Sadly) Yes, dear. But I have the feeling that is just what we will do—drown!

(Both exit, Wife flouncing out, Young Man more slowly, with bowed head.)

In the boat, God shut the door. After seven days, a terrible flood came on the earth ... just as Noah had said ... and everyone on the whole earth that was not in the ark drowned.

The Bible says that Jesus is coming back to the earth to take his people home with him. Some people laugh, just as they did in Noah's day, but Jesus is coming back whether people believe it or not. The only ones who are going with him are the ones who have invited Christ into their hearts and are living for God. Are you ready to go? Jesus is the big boat, and all who are not on his boat will not go. Are you in the Jesus boat? If not, you can be.