



Josephine School
Community
Museum



20th
Annual
Helen O. Carr

Dramatic Reading Contest

Place prizes
will be awarded
The grand prize winner
in each category
will be awarded an
engraved plaque

Come experience the oral interpretation of stories, poems, folktales, or essays
written by or about African Americans.

Saturday, February 14, 2026 at 1:30 pm

(Snow Date: February 21, 2026)

At the Josephine School Community Museum/Clarke County African-American Cultural Center
303 Josephine Street, Berryville, Virginia 22611

**Open to students in the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth grades.
Deadline for entry form is Friday, February 6, 2026**

Visit jschoolmuseum.org and click on "Students" for contest guidelines and entry form

For more information contact the Josephine School Community Museum at
540-955-5512 or 540-722-0719 or 540-333-0692 or email jschool515@verizon.net

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Dramatic Reading Contest

In celebration of Black History Month

Sponsored by the Josephine School Community Museum/Clarke County African-American Cultural Center

CONTEST GUIDELINES

- Contest is open to students in grades 2, 3, 4 and 5
- Reading selections must be taken from a published work of fiction, poetry, folklore, history or biography written by or about African Americans. Excerpts may be used.

Reading selections should be timed as follows:

Grade 2	Not less than 1 minute nor more than 3 minutes
Grade 3	Not less than 1 minute nor more than 3 minutes
Grades 4 & 5	Not less than 2 minutes nor more than 4 minutes

Readers will introduce themselves to the audience:

- Give name, school and grade
- Give title of reading selection

Readers will be judged on the following criteria:

- 1. Choice of selection (20 points)**
 - Selection is age appropriate
 - Meets criteria mentioned above
 - Meets time requirements
- 2. Interpretation (60 points)**
 - Enunciates and pronounce words clearly
 - Reads with expression
 - Reads from the text (not memorized)
 - Helps audience enjoy and understand literary work
- 3. General stage presence (20 points)**
 - Neat appearance
 - Stands with good posture
 - Makes eye contact with audience

Judges will be community members with an interest in education, leadership and literature.

Prizes will be awarded for the best readers in each grade level. Every participant will receive a certificate.

For more information call: 540-955-5512 or 540-722-0719 or 540-333-0692 or email jschool515@verizon.net

The Josephine School Community Museum is a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization. Our building is on the National Register of Historic Places. The Museum is located at 303 Josephine Street, Berryville, VA 22611.

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Dramatic Reading Contest

**Saturday, February 14, 2026
1:30 PM**

Sponsored by the Josephine School Community Museum/Clarke County African-American Cultural Center in honor of Black History Month

Entry Form

Deadline for entry form is Friday, February 6, 2026

- Open to students in the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth grades.
- Reading selections must be taken from a published work of fiction, poetry, folklore, history or biography written by or about African Americans. Excerpts may be used.
- Certificates and prizes awarded to contestants.

I would like to participate in the Black History Dramatic Reading Contest:

Name _____ Grade _____ Age _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ School _____

I plan to read the following selection based on the guidelines provided:

Selection _____

Title of Book _____

Publisher, if known _____

**My child _____ has my permission to participate
in the Black History Dramatic Reading Contest.**

Parent's signature _____

Please return this form (via Mail or Email) to: Josephine School Community Museum by mailing to PO Box 423, Berryville, Va. 22611, or by email to jschool515@verizon.net

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