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THE NATIONAL READING ALOUD COMPETITION

www.denationalevoorleeswedstrijd.nl

RULE BOOK



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The National Reading Aloud Competition is an initiative of 'Stichting Lezen' in collaboration with the libraries.

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The quarterfinals, semifinals and provincial finals are organized by employees of the libraries and the Provincial Support Institutions

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Stichting Lezen, 2013

With thanks to all the finalists of 2016

READING CHAMPION WILL BE APPOINTED CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK MUSEUM!

The Children's Book Museum in The Hague is a place for children to discover, experience and write beautiful stories. Here, each exhibition and activity is tailored to encourage the imagination. Since 2010 the museum has started appointing a Children's Director. Not only does he or she get to fulfill ceremonial roles during openings or events, but the Children's Director also makes sure that the museum organizes enough fun activities for children. Of course, the Children's Director is also the ambassador for youth literature and reading. He or she loves reading and is able to present on a stage. That's why, since 2013, we've asked the National Reading Champion to become Children's Director of the Children's Book Museum for one year.



THE NATIONAL READING ALOUD COMPETITION

“If you win best reader as a student and are allowed represent your school, it's something you won't forget for the rest of your life.”

Please take note: registering your school champion can only be done digitally. After the registration you will immediately receive a confirmation email (that means there will no longer be a letter and medal sent to your school). The email includes a **digital** invoice for a € 25 participation fee. The fee will go to the libraries that organize the follow-up rounds. In some exceptions the libraries might ask for a maximum of € 25 on top of the original fee as a compensation for their expenses.

If you haven't received your participation package or confirmation email yet, please log in at our website. Here you can easily check whether the package was successfully requested or whether your school champion has been registered. We also recommend taking a look at the Frequently Asked Questions section if something went wrong. If you cannot find what you're looking for on our website, please mail us at info@denationalevoorleeswedstrijd.nl

Without confirmation your school champion cannot compete in the follow-up rounds.

Dear school board, dear teacher of group 7/8,

Yet again, the time has for another edition of The National Reading Aloud Competition. Group 7 and 8 students across the country can look forward to preparing for the exciting initial rounds at their school. During the last 22 years, more than a million children have participated in The National Reading Aloud Competition, either as animated readers or engaged listeners. This year, will your school join in the fun again?

Of all the reasons to participate in The National Reading Aloud Competition, the most important must be that it encourages children to read, and it kindles their enthusiasm for children's and youth literature. Students learn a lot from each other when they join in, and the competitive element facilitates this mutual exchange. The competition is made an unforgettable experience for children by the remarkable selection of children's literature, the sheer amount of participants, the excitement, the enthusiasm of the supporters, the media attention. And isn't it fantastic for a student in group 7 or 8 to be able to call his- or herself school champion and compete on the regional, perhaps even provincial level? In May the National Reading Champion will be chosen during the spectacular national finals, to which the entire class is invited. Who knows, the next National Reading Champion of might be at your school!

This rulebook functions as a guide for organizing the first round of the competition at your school, while the follow-up rounds are also discussed. In this book, you'll also find information on choosing books, selecting fragments and judging methods.

Stichting Lezen wishes all readers good luck and we hope to see you at the national finals!

Agnes van Montfoort

Project Leader Elementary Education Stichting Lezen

“Though not all of the students might have the same level, this doesn't matter. The children learn to give each other tips, respect and compliments.”

TIPS FOR THE SCHOOL ROUND

1 If you involve all of your students in the preparations (judging, choosing books and so forth), participation in the school competition becomes a fun and educational experience for all. Moreover, it makes it compatible with the regular curriculum.

2 Try motivating your students to pick surprising, less well known and more literary authors.

3 Encourage the boys to join in! There are more than enough books (with humor, excitement or sports, for example) available to get them into reading.

THE READING ALOUD COMPETITION – STEP BY STEP

STEP 1 YOUR OWN SCHOOL ROUND
from half September until December 1st.

Informing students

The teachers in group 7 and 8 might want to start the first rounds at their school together, or separately in their own class. Inform the children about:

- The school rounds and follow-up rounds.
- Different aspects of good reading: when is it pleasant to listen to a reader? What should he or she pay attention to? The judges' form (make photocopies or show them the form on the digital school board) is a helpful tool here.

The Children's Book Week (in October) presents a suitable opportunity to organize a school round. Students from your class that want to participate can register with you. You can also choose to register all students in your class.

CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITER JACQUES VRIENS TALKS ABOUT WHAT A READER SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR. LET YOUR STUDENTS WATCH HIS VIDEO ON [DENATIONALEVOORLEESWEDSTRIJD.NL](https://www.denationalevoorleeswedstrijd.nl)

Choosing a book

You can help students choose a book:

- Search together on [leesplein.nl](https://www.leesplein.nl) or [boekenzoeker.org](https://www.boekenzoeker.org)
- Use the advice of the (children's) bookshop or library.
- Discuss how one might find a book that suits you.

When the choice of books is made, the readers can start preparing. Your help and moral support will be welcome here.

The school competition

Time for the competition! How you organize it is up to you. Here are some possibilities:

- Group 7 and group 8 at the same time or different competitions: one in group 7 and one in group 8 with another final.
- Exclusively for group 7 or group 8 (11-12 year olds)

- With listeners from other groups (5 and/or 6) or just listeners from your own group.

WATCH THE VIDEO OF THE SCHOOL COMPETITION AT DENATIONALEVOORLEESWEDSTRIJD.NL

Judging

For those judging the competitors the following is crucial:

- Always use the judging forms. They're also used in the follow-up rounds.
- Choose a group of children to judge or a professional judge of for example: a teacher from another group, a writer or library employee.
- The judges pay attention to either every aspect or their tasks are divided among them.
- A permanent judge (an adult) can be useful (preferably for a couple of years). He or she takes care of the grading system.
- Give each reader positive comments. Any tips for reading can wait for the follow-up rounds.
- A certificate, which you can award after the competition, is available for your school champion (included in the participation package).

Register your school champion before December 1st!

After the school round you should register your school champion at www.denationalevoorleeswedstrijd.nl. Please do so before December 1st. You will receive a confirmation email within a week. Only after confirmation will the registration be definitive and will your champion be able to compete in the follow-up rounds. Attached to the confirmation email will be a **digital** invoice for the participation fee of € 25. In some exceptions the libraries might charge € 25 extra as compensation for their expenses.



You can always check your status by logging in to you own account at our website www.denationalevoorleeswedstrijd.nl Has your school champion been registered? Are your contact details and invoice address correct? You'll find the answers to all these questions on at your account. More information is available at the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section. Can't find an answer? Contact us at info@denationalevoorleeswedstrijd.nl or call +31 20 345 72 12.

6 “We are all so proud that our classmate is going to represent us in the competition with other schools.”

TIPS FOR THE FOLLOW-UP ROUNDS

1 The libraries will inform you how many supporters you will be able to bring to the follow-up rounds. It is recommended to check the amount family and friends that want to join the classmates in supporting your candidate. In the case that more fans want to attend than possible, you can limit the amount of invitees and/or install a lottery system for your students. In any case: do discuss with your students that all participants should be cheered and not just their own classmate.

2 It's very important for your school champion to have you as a teacher present at every round (and not just the parents) in order to offer the needed support.

3 The classmates of the school champion might want to create a banner. Inventing a yell and learning it together also works well.

4 Of course, after the follow-up round everyone wants to hear how it went (again). That's why it might be fun to collect information on the competition. A message or

STEP 2 QUARTER AND SEMI FINALS Period January until half March

The number of rounds that the library will organize depends on the amount of participants in your school's region. You can help the school champion by preparing the follow-up rounds:

- Is the chosen fragment a good choice and does it not take longer than 5 minutes (including introduction)?
- Practice a couple of times in front of the class, which can share constructive criticism.
- Share the reading tips that are in the back of this rulebook and discuss them.

In January and February the library employee will contact you and your school champion (either with or without) the coordinator of the Provincial Support Institutions (POI). Together they are the ones organizing the follow-up rounds, usually starting with a quarterfinal and then a semifinal. If the school champion falls ill during the first follow-up round then number 2 is permitted to compete. This is not allowed in the regional or provincial rounds that follow. Preferably no A-books are used during the rounds before the provincial and national finals.

SHOW YOUR CLASS THE FILM OF THE PRE-FINALS AT DENATIONALEVOORLEESWEDSTRIJD.NL

photo on the school website, in the (digital) school paper and on Facebook is a great way to do this. Posting a clip to the school website makes it even more attractive. And don't forget to tweet about the process!

IMPORTANT FOR ALL ROUNDS

Publicity The local press is often interested in The National Reading Aloud Competition. Tips:

- Send an invitation for the decisive round at school.
- Send a picture of the winner and information on the competition (how much fun it was, which books were the favorites and some comments by the judges) to the local media.

To approach the local media you can contact your local library and/or Provincial Support Institution, both of which have a list of contacts available. You can also find this list at the national Organization of Local Broadcasters in the Netherlands (OLON), +31 35 820 03 83, e-mail: info@olon.nl.

Sponsoring Some additional rules apply for attracting extra sponsors. If it concerns small amounts or non-financial support, it can be handled independently. If the amount is substantial (more than € 1.000) then it is only possible after deliberation with us. Contact us at: info@denationalevoorleeswedstrijd.nl

STEP 3 PROVINCIAL FINALS

Period half March until half April

Candidates that continue to the provincial finals need to pick a new fragment from the same (or different) book. This fragment can also be read in the national finals if they want to. When the chosen book has been communicated to the provincial or national organizer it can only be changed by extreme exception. This will be communicated directly with the organizer.

Important! A-books cannot be used in the provincial or regional finals.

From half March until half April the winners of the regional finals will be invited to the provincial finals. The winner of the provincial finals will be awarded a certificate. The provincial final is a festive event with a (musical) performance, usually in a large theater.

WATCH THE CLIP OF THE PROVINCIAL FINALS AT DENATIONALEVOORLEESWEDSTRIJD.NL

STEP 4 NATIONAL FINALS

End of May

Eventually one candidate of each province will continue to the national finals in May. During the regional finals of The National Reading Aloud Competition every provincial winner will read a fragment of a chosen book and a fragment from another book that is handed to them on the morning of the finals (the 'unprepared reading' section). The national finals are an incredible party to which the whole class is invited. We will organize transport to and from the finals. In between the reading sessions a popular artist or group will perform. The finals receive a lot of attention from the daily and weekly papers, radio and television. The National Reading Champion is awarded the official trophy (which must be returned the next year) for the school, a trophy for themselves and gift certificates, which can be used to buy books. The national champion is also appointed Children's Director of the inspiring and adventurous Children's Books Museum.





“During the qualifying rounds the children listen to a lot of wonderful fragments from books that are chosen by the participants, either because they think it is humorous, exciting or just plain fun. Eventually, this makes picking up a book at the local- or school library accessible for the students.”

PRACTICE TIPS FOR PARTICIPANTS

1 Read the fragment a couple of times (at home or at school) and ask for tips. However, make sure you don't read so much you end up memorizing the part.

2 Also read what comes before the fragment so you'll really 'be in' the story when you read it to an audience.

3 When reading to an audience, try imagining the story happening (even though you know the part already); this makes it more interesting to listen to.

4 Read the judges' forms well!

READ BEFORE HAND IMPORTANT FOR PARTICIPANTS AND JUDGES

What is a suitable book, what is allowed and what isn't?

- It's important that you are enthusiastic about your book, this makes it more interesting to listen to.
- It's best to choose a book that is meant for group 7/8. During the school rounds and the rounds that follow, level A books are permitted.
- In the provincial and national finals, level A books are **not permitted**. Information on level A and B books can be found on the website of the public library.
- The following is not allowed: a book written by yourself, picture books, magazines, poems, school books or photocopies.
- A book written in dialect is allowed during the school round and follow-up rounds but not during the provincial and national finals.
- The fragment is read in its entirety. No pieces are allowed to be left out.
- When the chosen book has been communicated to the regional, provincial and national organizers, change is no longer possible.
- Participants can find suitable books at home, at school, in the library, in the (children's) bookshop, in the reading tips of the rule book or, for example, at www.leesplein.nl or www.boekenzoeker.org.

When is a fragment useable?

- It must be a complete piece, though you can leave an open ending to tickle the audience's curiosity.
- The fragment can't have too many characters. An overcrowded fragment is difficult to follow for listeners who don't know the book.

How long can the reading take?

The reading of the introduction plus the fragment can take a **maximum** of 5 minutes. The minimum is three minutes. Participants can prepare

Find a book that suits you at:

www.boekenzoeker.org



© Illustration Sebastiaan Van Doninck

by reading in a relaxed manner while tracking the time (perhaps with a stopwatch). Sometimes reading too long can be a reason to not qualify for the next round!

Does the participant need to say anything during the introduction?

- Yes, it's mandatory to say the title of the book, the author (and if applicable illustrator) and (very briefly!) what happened before the fragment so the readers understand what the story is about. The participant may also write this down and read it to the audience.
- Why he/she chose this book, the participant's name, name of the school and place they are from.

What do the judges mostly look for?

- Clear and relaxed speech.
- Being able to transport the audience into the story.
- Using the right accentuations.
- Contact with the audience, looking at the listeners once in a while.
- Using your own voice. A good reader stays close to his/her own voice and uses, for example, small changes in tempo, reads a little louder or softer, in order to convey a mood or emotion. The use of voices isn't prohibited but it is a pitfall for most children (see also: 'Voices' on page 12)
- Don't shout.
- Don't make (big) theatrical gestures
- It's no problem to stumble now and then, this won't be negatively judged.

“Less apt readers also become enthusiastic and even join the competition. Children with dyslexia can also compete (our school champion is heavily dyslexic!), though they do need a little more preparation”

What do the judges look for?

During the National Reading Aloud Competition the judges have an enjoyable but difficult task. It's important that all the judges, even those at school, judge all efforts in the same way. The judges' form should be used from the start—so also at the school rounds. The judges' form functions as a guide.

TIPS FOR JUDGES

Listen a little while before you start to grade. Sometimes, readers are still a little nervous in the beginning..

PLEASE NOTE:

Digital voting is not allowed to substitute judging on the spot. How a reader comes off to the public can only be judged by judges that are present at the reading itself.

Voices

For a lot of children, using voices is a pitfall. They tend to exaggerate and don't return to their own voice. This is why we advise against it and why—except when a child has mastered the technique—it is negatively judged. Using a change of pitch while reading is more than sufficient.

Who are the judges?

The children have a right to expert judgement. It's good if there is at least one regular, adult judge (or judge supervisor) who has been doing the job for a couple of years. Children that have won last year can't be expected to make a balanced judgement of their peers. A role in the award ceremony or as guest of honor is more suitable.

It is preferred to have an uneven amount of judges, regarding the possibility of a vote.

Working method of the judges

- The judges must receive the rulebook and have read it.
- The judges arrive with plenty of time to spare and discuss the judging criteria beforehand (judges' form)
- The judges' supervisor explains the way the participants will be judged. Are the points counted? Are the drop-outs selected first? Does everyone chose a number 1, 2 and 3 and are they then discussed? What happens at which moment for the judges / during which break in the program? Different options are possible. There is always a lot to be done and only a little time.
- Before the preliminary discussions the judges first read the paragraph '*Read beforehand! Important for participants and judges*' (page 10). This prevents from winning a child who reads in too much of a theatrical way or shouts.
- The chair of the judges communicates that a short positive comment must be written down about all candidates (or just the numbers 1,2 and 3) so that the judges can use this during the award ceremony. The judges shouldn't give negative comments, even in the form of 'tips'.
- The judges divide their tasks for the award ceremony.



JUDGES' FORM



Name reader

Title book

Name author

6 = average 7 = sufficient 8 = good 9 = excellent 10 = perfect

| | POINTS | COMMENTS |
|--|--------|----------|
| 1. The emphasis is made at the right places. | | |
| 2. The candidate reads at a pleasant tempo (not too fast, not too slow). | | |
| 3. There are tempo changes where necessary. | | |
| 4. The use of voice fits the story. | | |
| 5. The emotion is conveyed. | | |
| 6. The candidate looks at the audience once in a while.. | | |
| 7. The audience is transported by the story. | | |
| 8. The candidate is intelligible . | | |
| 9. The choice of fragment is: (think of: original, complete of an exciting open end). | | |
| Total points: | | |

The candidate has a chance to win:

no maybe in the [] place (1st, 2nd, 3rd)

.....

.....

PROVINCIAL SUPPORT INSTITUTES (LIBRARY ORGANISATIONS)

Contact details

The Provincial Support Institutes (POI's)
organize the provincial finals. For
questions about the local competitions
please contact the local libraries.

Biblionet Groningen

De Mudden 18 | 9747 AW Groningen
Postbus 2503 | 9704 CM Groningen

**Mw. M. de Groot (Margreet),
Lolkje Boorsma**

voorleeswedstrijd@biblionetgroningen.nl
+31 50 365 01 30

Rijnbrink provincie Gelderland

Zeelandsingel 40 | 6845 BH Arnhem
Postbus 9052 | 6800 GR Arnhem

Mw. C. Melissen (Constance)

constance.melissen@rijnbrink.nl
+31 6 10269882

Cubiss Limburg & Brabant

Statenlaan 4 | 5042 RX Tilburg
Mercator 1 | 6135 KW Sittard
Postbus 90114 | 5000 LA Tilburg

Mw. E. Cuijpers (Elly)

e.cuijpers@cubiss.nl
+31 46 420 80 09
+31 6-18382509

Bibliotheekservice Fryslân

Zuiderkruisweg 4 | 8938 AP Leeuwarden
Postbus 7507 | 8903 JM Leeuwarden

Mw. J. Straatsma (Janneke)

j.straatsma@bfri.nl
+31 58 284 77 21

BISC

Bibliotheek Service Centrum

Fruitweg 48
3981 PA Bunnik

Mw. M. van der Meij (Mieke)

m.van.der.meij@biscutrecht.nl
+31 30 635 46 35

Rijnbrink provincie Overijssel

Van Alphenstraat 11 | 7442 TW Nijverdal
Postbus 228 | 7440 AE Nijverdal

Mw. C. Bruggink (Carry)

carry.bruggink@rijnbrinkgroep.nl
+31 548 634500

Biblionet Drenthe / afdeling Educatie

Postbus 78 | 9400 AB Assen

Mw. E. Huizenga (Evelien)

E.Huizenga@biblionetdrenthe.nl
+31 88 0128024

ProBiblio

Noord- en Zuid Holland

Opaallaan 1180 | 2132 LN Hoofddorp
Postbus 485 | 2130 AL Hoofddorp

Dia Wesseling

dwesseling@probiblio.nl
+31 23 55 46 186

SFB – Servicecentrum Flevolandse Bibliotheek

A.Einsteinweg 4 | 8218 NH Lelystad

Mw. L. Akse (Lisenka)

l.akse@sfb-net.nl
+31 320 26 95 52

ZB | Planbureau en Bibliotheek van Zeeland

Kousteensedijk 7 | 4331 JE Middelburg
Postbus 8004 | 4330 EA Middelburg

Mw. S. Mes-Meij (Sjannie)

smes@dezb.nl
+31 118 65 42 53

Registering your school champion is can only be done digitally at

WWW.DENATIONALEVOORLEESWEDSTRIJD.NL

After logging in you'll get an overview of all your details and can take the following actions:

- Check your contact details and correct if necessary
- See whether and when you've applied for a participation package
- See when the participation package has been sent
- Register your school champion
- See who has been registered as school champion and when he/she was registered
- See when your confirmation email was sent
- See whether a digital invoice for the follow-up rounds has been sent and when

PLEASE NOTE

Confirmation and sending of invoice is strictly digital.



*“Reading is fun and educational!
These days people read less and less. It's
good for schools to show that reading is
important.”*



WATCH JACQUES VRIENS TALK ABOUT
WHAT A READER SHOULD LOOK OUT FOR AT
DENATIONALEVDORLEESWEDSTRIJD.NL

