



### Contestant Rules and Judging Criteria

Contest Date and Time: Saturday, November 16, 2024, from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

Contest Location: The June Bug Center, 251 Parkway Ln S., Floyd, VA 24091

Contest Sponsors: The June Bug Center, Storytelling Connections LLC and Let Me Tell Ya! events, Blue Ridge Story Space, and Virginia Storytelling Alliance. While contestants may have affiliations to these sponsors, they shall keep their affiliations private, and judges shall not consider them.

Entry Method: Contestants of all ages pay \$10 to enter. They must preregister through Eventbrite at <https://tinyurl.com/mtuh47ay>. Registration is limited to 12 contestants.

The award ceremony will take place after the Contest. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> place = \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = \$50, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place = \$25

Conditions: By participating, entrants affirm that they have read the contest rules and agree to be bound by them, and the selection of winners by the judges shall be final. Acceptance of prizes constitutes permission to use the winner's name, likeness, biography, and prize won for advertising, promotion, and publicity without further compensation. The contestants release, discharge, and hold harmless Storytelling Connections, LLC from all liability and damages arising from the administration of the Liars Contest.

### Contest Rules:

1. To participate, contestants must be present at 5:30 pm on November 16, 2024. They are encouraged to arrive at 5:00 pm to familiarize themselves with the venue.
2. The teller will place their name in the hat. The emcee or designee will draw the name of the first teller. After telling, each teller will pull the name of the next teller, etc.
3. A short intermission will be made after the first six tellers.
4. There will be three judges and one timekeeper. Judges use the official judging form to score each teller. There may be only one first, second, and third-place winner. There will be no ties, and the judges' decision will be final. Contestants are given the judging criteria and encouraged to use it for rehearsing.

5. The story's time limit is **5 minutes** (with a one-minute grace). Therefore, a teller is allotted *six minutes* before they are disqualified and will be signaled to be seated.
6. The time will begin when the teller addresses the audience verbally or nonverbally; thus, the teller should not look at or say anything to the audience until the microphone is adjusted and the teller is ready.
7. The "lies" should be any short stories (humorous, dramatic, supernatural, etc.) that are *not entirely true*.
8. The stories must be told, not read—no use of notes.
9. Stories must be in good taste. No risqué stories, vulgar language, or disrespectful accents will be permitted. Stories must be PG-rated—i.e., appropriate for an all-ages audience. Any story entered in the Contest that fails to meet these requirements will be disqualified as deemed by the judges.
10. Entries shall be original compositions or may be based partially or wholly on folklore or other material from the public domain. Copyrighted stories are prohibited in the Contest unless the contestant is the copyright holder.
11. The contest director will be ineligible to enter the Contest.

### **Judges Rules:**

Judges must arrive at 5 pm to review the rules and receive their official judging ballot.

### Judge's Code of Ethics

1. Judges will demonstrate the utmost objectivity. Judges will consciously avoid bias in selecting first-, second-, and third-place contestants. Judges will not consider any contestant's affiliation with Let Me Tell Ya! or Blue Ridge Story Space.
2. Judges will support and adhere to the contest rules and judging standards, refrain from public criticism of the Contest, and only reveal selected scores and the ranking assigned per the speech contest rules.
3. Judges will not be Let Me Tell Ya! or Blue Ridge Story Space members.
4. Judges will have no conflict of interest with contestants that would cause bias.

Judging will be done by a panel of three judges who will score each contestant in the following categories:

- A. Technique – Delivery, confidence, general stagecraft
- B. Story Development – Good development of the tale (beginning, middle, and end) in the time available
- C. Originality – New material or fresh handling of a familiar yarn
- D. Effectiveness of the story as a lie – In the judge's opinion, the audience's response should be considered.

The three judges will score each of the four categories on a scale of 0 to 10, with a maximum score of 40 points per competitor. Judges will:

- Score each teller independently, using the guidelines below without consulting the other judges.

- Respond authentically to the tellers and their stories; laughter, smiles, and a spontaneous "ah..." are all okay.
- Do not judge tellers verbally or nonverbally throughout the show, e.g., no nudges, side slaps, sighs, yawns, or eye rolls.
- Keep scores hidden from others throughout the show, especially from people who can look over your shoulders or at intermission.
- After all tellers have told the judges, they will do the following:
  - Add up all the individual scores to determine who earned first, second, and third place on your score sheet.
  - If you have a tie for top place on your score sheet, you award ONE discretionary point to ONE of the top individuals.
  - The criterion for this discretionary point is purely personal and will provide the just with a winner.
- As a group of three judges:
  - Tally your scores for each contestants
  - The person with the most points among the three judges will get FIRST place.
  - The person with the second most points will get SECOND place.
  - The person with the third most significant number of points will get THIRD place.
- If once all the points are tallied, there is a tie for FIRST; you will each award ONE discretionary point to ONE of the two top individuals.
  - This should result in one person being the winner and the other being second.
  - The next highest point-getter will be third.
- If, once all the points are tallied, there is a tie for SECOND, you will each award ONE discretionary point to ONE of the second-place individuals.
  - This should result in one person being SECOND and another being THIRD.
- If, once all the points are tallied, there is a tie for THIRD, you will each award ONE discretionary point to ONE of the third-place individuals.
  - This should result in one person being THIRD and another not being awarded.

### Judging Criteria:

You will score stories on Technique, Story Development, Originality, and Effectiveness of the story as a lie.

- You will rate tellers in each section on a scale of 0 to 10.

0 to 2	It does virtually nothing to address the criterion. (Poor)
3 to 5	Criterion is weakly addressed (Fair)
6 to 8	Story solidly addresses criterion (Good)
9 to 10	The story addresses the criterion creatively and compellingly (Excellent)

#### **Technique: (Points awarded 0 to 10)**

- Teller delivers the story with confidence
- The teller projects their voice and can be heard
- Teller exercises good stagecraft
- The teller does not use notes

#### **Story Development: (Points awarded 0 to 10)**

- The story has a beginning, middle, and end
- The story has an arc; it builds to a climax and then reaches resolution
- Teller uses audience-appropriate language in a compelling way

#### **Originality: (Points awarded 0 to 10)**

- The story is original or a new, fresh take on a classic tale or lie
- The story unfolds unpredictably, but one that makes sense given the story
- Teller uses engaging language

#### **Effectiveness of the story: (Points awarded 0 to 10)**

- The teller tells the story in an engaging way that helps create some connection with the audience.
- The teller makes eye contact with the audience naturally and appropriately.
- The teller's non-verbal body language "supports" the story's telling.