

# American Sign Language Honor Society



High School • College • University

Welcome! The National American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS) is pleased to announce the 2018 ASL Literature Competition. The following instructions and forms provide the necessary information to participate in the competition. To participate, students must attend a school with a current ASLHS chapter on campus.

## Classifier Stories

### Category 1 –Retell Classifier Story

Students will recreate one of the Classifier Stories from the following links below:

- *The Ball* by Ben Bahan  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3Dt-xFHjls>
- *Deaf Dog in the Park* by Patrick Fischer  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nEqe9gDvsl>
- *The Gift*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZ29PqU5kY4>

*(Videos of these selections are available on the ASLHS youtube site)*

### Category 2 – Original Classifier Story

Students will create an original Classifier story by themselves.

Entry deadline: **April 20, 2018**

# For the Teacher:

## 1. Membership

For your students to participate in this competition, your school must belong to the American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS) and sponsor an ASLHS chapter on campus. Dues for the 2017-2018 academic year must be current for your students to compete. Additionally you or another teacher at your school must be a member of the American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA) with membership valid for the current 2017-2018 dues cycle.

If no ASLHS chapter exists on your campus, submit application forms and dues with the 2018 ASL Literature Competition entries.

Competition entries submitted by students not represented by an official ASLHS chapter are automatically disqualified.

If you are including ASLHS membership along with entries into the 2018 ASL Literature competition, you must do the following:

- Include ASLHS & ASLTA membership forms;
- Include a separate check for ASLHS & ASLTA membership dues.
- Remember all payment fees must be mailed to the ASLTA Treasurer at

Please consider joining ASLHS before submitting entries to the competition! All information and forms are available at <http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>

## 2. Time Frame

Submissions will be accepted beginning April 2, 2017 and all entries are due or postmarked by **April 20, 2018**. Late entries will be disqualified.

### 3. Competition Categories

Students may submit entries in the following categories:

#### Category 1 –Retell Classifier Stories

Students will recreate one of the Classifier Stories from the following links below:

- *The Ball* by Ben Bahan  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3Dt-xFHjls>
- *Deaf Dog in the Park* by Patrick Fischer  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nEqe9gDvsl>
- *The Gift*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZ29PqU5kY4>

*(Videos of these selections are available on the ASLHS webpage)*

#### Category 2 – Original Classifier Story

Students will create an original Classifier Story by themselves.

### 4. Competition Classes

The contest is open to students regularly enrolled in secondary school and post secondary language courses. Students at any level of ASL instruction are welcome to submit entries in one or both categories. Both Category 1 and Category 2 have two classes for the completion. The “classes” are based on student experience.

CLASS A: Students of ASL Level 1 and 2, CODAs (children of deaf adults) who are not fluent or Deaf students who are not fluent in ASL.

CLASS B: Students of ASL level 3 and above, CODAs who have emerging ASL skills and Deaf students who have emerging skills as well as CODAs and Deaf with proficient skills.

Students may compete in a higher class (Students from Class A may compete in Class B), but may not complete in a lower class (Students from Class B may not compete in Class A). A student who wishes to compete, but who is not currently enrolled in an ASL class, may compete at the level most recently completed. Teachers should make a careful distinction among Classes A and B categories. Students may be disqualified if, in the opinion of the judges, they are in the wrong level or class.

### 5. Registration Fees

Each School must send a \$25 entry fee. This fee covers all students entering from the school.

## 6. Payment

Payment of submission entries must be in check form, made payable to *American Sign Language Teachers Association or ASLTA*. **Purchase orders or credit cards will not be accepted.** Entry fees are nonrefundable.

All payment fees for the competition, ASLHS chapter dues, and ASLTA membership dues are sent to the following:

ASLTA Treasurer  
PO Box 64801  
Rochester, NY 14624

All competition entry forms and materials are sent to the following:

Jessica Parker  
ASL Literature Competition  
East High School  
4025 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

**NOTE:** In the event a check is returned due to insufficient funds, the ASL Honor Society will turn over the debt to a personal debt collection agency in addition to placing the chapter on probation. If a chapter is on probation, students are not allowed to participate in ASLHS-sponsored events (including literature competitions and the ASL scholarship), teachers cannot apply for mini-grants, and graduation materials will not be delivered. In addition, any bank fees and processing fees will be added for the total amount due for checks not accepted by the bank for any reason.

## 7. Submission Format

Because we receive hundreds of entries, your organization when submitting your entries will greatly assist and expedite the judging process. All entries are to be submitted on a standard USB drive. Please have a separate folder for Category (Retell or Original). For each Category, please have separate folders for each Class (A and B).

Entries should be placed within the appropriate folder. Make sure the file name looks like this:

Category 1

**Last name, First name - school acronym – Title of Work**

Examples: Scott, Monica – EHS – The Gift

**Or**

Category 2

## **Last name, First name - school acronym – Title of Work**

Examples: Scott, Monica – EHS – Snowy Day

### **8. Registration Forms**

The ASL teacher is responsible for coordinating the completion of all registration forms. There are 4 forms that need to be filled out:

1. Competition Cover Sheet, filled out by the teacher (Print and include a hard copy);
2. School Entry Form, electronic copy filled out by the teacher (Included on the USB drive);
3. Payment Form, filled out by the teacher (Print and include a hard copy);
4. Student Entry Form, filled out by the student (Print and include a hard copy).
5. Media Release Forms, filled out by the student and parent. If a drummer is shown in the video, make sure to have a media release form for them also.

- Use the **Submission Checklist** to assist in ensuring your entry is complete.

### **9. Prizes & Certificates**

- Winners will be decided by renowned Deaf performer **Patrick Fischer**, aka Mr. Shiney Head.
- All participants will receive a certificate of participation
- All classes will receive a certificate of participation
- Prizes for both categories are as follows:
  - First place: \$100.00
  - Second place: \$75.00
  - Third place: \$50.00
- Winning students will receive a “Sign Language is Spoken Here” sign.
- Classrooms with winning students will receive their choice of a Patrick Fischer video.

### **10. Announcement of Winners**

Winners will be announced **May 11, 2018**, on the ASL Honor Society website. If your student wins in any category, you will be informed prior to the announcement.

### **11. Winning Entries**

Winning entries will be posted on the ASL Honor Society's YouTube page. **It is essential that any student under 18 years of age have a parent or guardian's permission to have his/her child's entry posted.** This information appears on the student's entry form.

### **12. Return of USB Drives**

All submissions become the property of ASLHS and will not be returned, so please make a backup copy of all entries. USB drives can be returned if you include return postage.

## What is a Classifier Story?

A Classifier (CL) story is a form of ASL literature that uses handshapes to convey nouns and verbs. The CL is used to provide additional information such as location, movement, size, shape, and/or manner. Sometimes a CL story will use a limited number of handshapes, and sometimes a CL story will choose a recurring CL throughout the story. One thing must remain constant, CLs must be used throughout to clarify the events of the story (i.e. a bus on a bumpy road, swaying pigtails of a little girl, or a ball bouncing down the street).

## Why Classifier Retell?

Classifier (CL) stories have long held a rich tradition in ASL literature. They are often passed down from generation to generation by means of live visual storytelling. They are a foundational part of Deaf culture that helps explain Deaf identity, beliefs, and ways of life. It is embraced, enjoyed, and shared by the Deaf community and those who support the values and beliefs of the Deaf community. Poetic and narrative retells are commonly found in language courses, both English and other world languages. Memorizing and retelling an ASL Story is similar to the exercise of memorizing a classic passage as a model of great literature and language. In general, story retells increase the quality and quantity of what is comprehended. Furthermore, ASL retells allow the student to internalize the language features found in the story such as correct sign choice, use of space, non-manual markers, and other associated features of ASL discourse.

## General Competition Guidelines

1. An introduction signed by the student must be included before signing the Classifier Story. Wait 2-3 seconds after the end of the introduction before beginning. The signed introduction must include:
  - a. The signer's first name.
  - b. What level of ASL the student is studying
  - c. The title of the Classifier Story
2. All songs must be performed naturally. Reading from scripts, cue cards, "cheat sheets" or copy-signing another individual is not permitted.
3. The story must be presented individually.
4. The student should wear solid contrasting colors with minimal jewelry and hair should be kept away from the face.
5. The background should be neutral and solid. Please give enough space in all directions so signs do not go out of the video frame. *No computer enhanced backgrounds are permitted. Entries with computer enhanced backgrounds will be disqualified.*



## Judging Criteria

All entries will be judged according to the following criteria:

### 1. Clarity

The most important element in presenting in ASL is clarity, which asks this question: *Can my audience understand what I'm signing?* How well is each sign formed?

Key aspects of clarity include:

- Not rushing or moving too slowly to be distracting
- Well-formed parameters
- Clear facial expressions and non-manuals
- Confidence in the ability to sign the story

### 2. Sign Production

The basic building block of clarity is sign production, which focuses on how well each sign is formed. It makes the difference between unclear mumbling and effective communication. When signing a Classifier story, it is imperative to master sign production. Some areas to focus on:

- Handshapes should be well-formed, precise, and accurate
- Know the parameters of each sign, including handshape, palm orientation, location, movement, and non-manual components
- Smooth delivery of signs, rather than appearing jerky, confused, or uncertain

### 3. Presentational Format

Signing for an audience requires a different type of signing than the casual conversation between friends. Presentational communication emphasizes formality appropriate to the situation.

Avoid these common errors:

- Breaking eye-contact with the camera
- Nervous gestures, such as tucking hair behind the ears, rocking on feet, slouching, and playing with clothes

Things to include:

- Use a larger sign space
- Use the space around the signer to establish reference points and details
- Use facial expressions and non-manual signals deliberately and clearly
- Sign slightly slower than usual with artistic motion
- Stand straight with both feet on the flat ground

#### 4. Content

How well does the student communicate what he or she intended to communicate? Whether it's retelling or the performance of a Classifier story, the judges want to have a clear understanding of the content.

### Competition Contact & Address

The coordinator of the 2018 ASL Literature competition is Jessica Parker. Questions regarding the competition may be sent to [aslhs.competitions2@aslta.org](mailto:aslhs.competitions2@aslta.org).

Payment questions may be directed to [treasurer@aslta.org](mailto:treasurer@aslta.org) with a cc to Jessica Parker [aslhs.competitions2@aslta.org](mailto:aslhs.competitions2@aslta.org).

#### Mailing Address for All Competition Entry Materials

All USB drives and submission forms should be mailed to the address below. Do not send packets by certified mail or signature-needed delivery, as this will result in a delay.

Jessica Parker  
 ASL Literature Competition  
 East High School  
 4025 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
 Anchorage, Alaska 99508

#### Mailing Address for Payment Forms and Checks

ASLTA Treasurer  
 ASL Literature Competition  
 PO Box 64801  
 Rochester, NY 14624



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE  
 TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



# American Sign Language Honor Society

## 2018 ASL Literature Competition

### COVER SHEET

*This sheet must be attached on top of all registration forms  
& completed by the ASL teacher*

Teacher name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher email (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one:	There is an ASLHS chapter at my school	I included an application to form an ASLHS chapter with these entries	I am sending an application to form an ASLHS chapter separately
Circle one:	Our ASLHS chapter is sponsored by an ASLTA member with dues paid for 2017/2018	I included our ASLTA membership form and dues payment with these forms	I am sending an ASLTA membership form and dues payment separately

Name of school (print) \_\_\_\_\_

School address (print) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

School phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (Optional)

How many Reproduction CL story videos are you registering? \_\_\_\_\_

How many Original CL story videos are you registering? \_\_\_\_\_



# American Sign Language Honor Society

## Eric "Malz" Malzkhn

### 2018 ASL Literature Competition

#### Payment Form

*This sheet must be filled out by the ASL teacher*

Teacher name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher email (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school (print) \_\_\_\_\_

School address (print) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

School Entry Fee \$25.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Including ASLTA and ASLHS dues? (See forms for exact amounts) = \$\_\_\_\_\_

2018 competition entry total = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks out to ***American Sign Language Teachers Association or ASLTA.***

*Send this form and check to:*

*ASLTA Treasurer  
PO Box 64801  
Rochester, NY 14624*

(Include a copy with Competition Materials)

# American Sign Language Honor Society

## Eric "Malz" Malzkhn 2018 ASL Literature Competition

### Student Entry Form

*This sheet must accompany all entries and be completed by the student*

School name \_\_\_\_\_ ASL Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Student name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you studied ASL? \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_ semesters

Entry Title \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: Retell or Original

Entry Title \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: Retell or Original

#### Read & Acknowledge the Following

Yes No

\_\_\_\_ I have received minimal assistance from my ASL teacher / professor

\_\_\_\_ I understand that if I win in any category, my story may be posted on  
ASLHonorSociety.org and other media sites.

\_\_\_\_ I understand that all entries become the property of the ASL Honor Society and  
will not be returned

I \_\_\_\_\_ (print student name) acknowledge that the entry or  
entries I have submitted represent my own work and ideas.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\*\*If the student entering the 2018 ASL Literature Competition is younger than 18  
years of age, please have a parent read and sign the following:**

I give my child \_\_\_\_\_ (print student name) permission to submit  
his/her entry to the 2018 ASL Literature Competition sponsored by the ASL Honor Society. I  
understand that if my child places in any category, his/her work may be posted on the ASLHS  
home page (<http://www.aslhonorsociety.org>) and other media sites.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

American Sign Language Honor Society

Eric "Malz" Malzkhn

2018 ASL Literature Competition

**Submission Checklist**

In order to ensure that your submission to the ASLHS Literature Competition goes smoothly, use this checklist to make sure you have completed all of the steps and submitted forms and payments correctly.

- \_\_\_ Our school is a chapter of ASLHS with dues paid for 2017/18. (If not go to [www.aslhonorsociety.org](http://www.aslhonorsociety.org) and retrieve the ASLHS Chapter Membership Form. Your school must be a member of ASLHS before your students can participate)
- \_\_\_ The Sponsor of our ASLHS chapter is: \_\_\_\_\_ and she/he is a member in good standing of the ASLTA with dues paid for the 2017/18 membership cycle. (If not go to [www.aslta.org/membership](http://www.aslta.org/membership) and pay dues before submitting materials to the competition).
- \_\_\_ The school has paid a \$25 entry fee and completed the Student Entry Form which is enclosed.
- \_\_\_ Sponsor/Teacher complete and submit the following to:  
**ASLHS Competition Coordinator, Jessica Parker 4025 E Northern Lights Blvd. Anchorage, Alaska 99508**
  - \_\_\_ Cover Sheet
  - \_\_\_ School Entry Form
  - \_\_\_ Student Entry Form (One form for each student submitting an entry)
  - \_\_\_ USB thumb drive with all entries clearly organized into folders (see instructions page 4)
  - \_\_\_ Payment Form (Do **NOT** send checks to Jessica Parker)
- \_\_\_ Sponsor/Teacher complete and submit the following to:  
**ASLTA Treasurer, PO Box 64801 Rochester, NY 14624**
  - \_\_\_ Payment Form
  - \_\_\_ Copies of Cover Sheet and School Entry Form
  - \_\_\_ Checks
  - \_\_\_ ASLHS Chapter Membership Form with check (if applicable)
  - \_\_\_ ASLTA Membership Form with check (if applicable)