

# 7 OMA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PRESENTS:

THE 2024 LAGOS DICTION AWARDS/COMPETITION

(A means to foster reading and spelling skills in children)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE COMPETITION

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## **Introduction:**

It is an incontrovertible fact that the spelling and reading culture of students is deteriorating. **In other to expose and encourage our children to develop good reading habit and love for spelling words correctly (with the RP), your child/school is invited to a recitation of poetry and words often mispronounced competition and Awards.**

Any child from grade 3 to 6 can be registered to **recite any of the poems selected in this material for this competition and watch the sample videos of past winners using the links below:**

Any child from grade 2 to 6 should be picked to compete in words often mispronounced. **Each child is expected to learn the correct pronunciation of the words listed in this material by watching the video attached to this material using the links below**

**After buying this material, copy and share the soft links to all the students in year 3 to 6 by creating a whatsapp group for their parents. You may choose to add the whatsapp number of one of the officiating instructors, Mathew (+2348137957927) so that he can listen to the voice over of each pupil and suggest the best pupils to come to the competition. However, you don't need to add his number to the group if you already have a diction instructor in your school.**

**Once you have finished watching the videos and preparing with this material then you listen to all the pupils and register the best 5 pupils for recitation category and the best 5 pupils for words often mispronounced by logging in to <https://omadiction.pro>. Once you open site, click on The Lagos Oma Diction Competition and click on 'registration'. Each child should be registered one by one so that you can download the ticket and the tag for each child which will give the child access to the competition.**

**Alternative registration: You may choose to first send your payment to: name of account - Oma Professional services, 0107968307, gtbank. Then send the receipt, name of your school, school address and the names of the 10 pupils coming to Matthew on Whatsapp (+2348137957927). He would forward the ticket and tag for each child to you.**

**All participants are to prepare the poems of the authors in this manual only.** Please watch all the videos attached to this manual.

We want you to send 5 pupils to represent recitation and another 5 for words often mispronounced and 2 teachers to manage them during the competition. If you wish to register for more please chat Matthew on whatsapp (2348137957927). More information will be sent once you purchase this manual

**Venue: SILVERBIRD GALLERIA HALL 4, Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Lagos. Date: 30TH MARCH, 2024. Time: 9am-2PM (NO NIGERIAN TIME).**

## Poems for Recitation

Each child must choose, learn and present **ONE** out of the following poems below. First, watch the video of each of the poems using the soft links given to you.

### 1. 'The Vultures' - David Diop

In those days

When civilization kicked us in the face

When holy water slapped our cringing brows

The vultures built in the shadow of their talons

The bloodstained monument of tutelage

In those days

There was painful laughter on the metallic hell of the roads

And the monotonous rhythm of the paternoster

Drowned the howling on the plantations

O the bitter memories of extorted kisses

Of promises broken at the point of a gun

Of foreigners who did not seem human

You who knew all the books but knew not love

Nor our hands which fertilise the womb of the earth

Hands instinct at the root with revolt

In spite of your songs of pride in the charnel-houses

In spite of the desolate villages of Africa torn apart

Hope lived in us like a citadel

And from Swaziland's mines to the sweltering sweat of Europe's factories

Spring will be reborn under our bright steps.

### 2. 'NIGHTFALL IN SOWETO' – OSWALD MTSHALI

Nightfall comes like

a dreaded disease

seeping through the pores

of a healthy body

and ravaging it beyond repair

A murderer's hand,

lurking in the shadows,

clasping the dagger,

strikes down the helpless victim.

I am the victim.

I am slaughtered

every night in the streets.

I am cornered by the fear

gnawing at my timid heart;

in my helplessness I languish.

Man has ceased to be man

Man has become beast

Man has become prey.

I am the prey;  
I am the quarry to be run down  
by the marauding beast  
let loose by cruel nightfall  
from his cage of death.  
Where is my refuge?  
Where am I safe?  
Not in my matchbox house  
Where I barricade myself against nightfall.  
I tremble at his crunching footsteps,  
I quake at his deafening knock at the door.  
“Open up!” he barks like a rabid dog  
thirsty for my blood.  
Nightfall! Nightfall!  
You are my mortal enemy.  
But why were you ever created?  
Why can't it be daytime?  
Daytime forever more?

### 3. 'Abiku' By JP Clark

Coming and going these several seasons,  
Do stay out on the baobab tree,  
Follow where you please your kindred  
spirits  
If indoors is not enough for you.  
True, it leaks through the thatch

When flood brim the banks,  
And the bats and the owls  
Often tear in at night through the eaves,  
And at harmattan, the bamboo walls  
Are ready tinder for the fire  
That dries the fresh fish up on the rack.  
Still, it's been the healthy stock  
To several fingers, to many more will be  
Who reach to the sun.  
No longer then bestride the threshold  
But step in and stay  
For good. We know the knife scars  
Serrating down your back and front  
Like beak of the sword-fish,  
And both your ears, notched  
As a bondsman to this house,  
Are all relics of your first comings.

Then step in, step in and stay

For her body is tired,

Tired, her milk going sour

Where many more mouths gladden the  
heart

### 4. 'Home' - BY GODSWILL SAMUEL

(For Ogbonnaya Agwu)

It is that sweet smell of love

Roasted in the Harmattan sun  
Brown, crisp and tender  
Wrapped up in my heart,  
Shielded from the winds of change  
Like the sands of a lonely cave.  
The warrior-forest is imposing  
Sheltering a dozen thatched huts  
Like a hen over her new-born  
Time takes me away by its tides  
Round, round and round it rides  
But home is old and safe  
In my hopeful heart, unchanged  
The past creeps away slowly: it's gone  
Rain kisses the dead grass: it's reborn!  
In strange winters I dream  
Of the solace of her warm stream  
There I, struggle with alien cultures,  
Long for her living sculptures,  
For the dances at the yam festivals,  
For the moonlight plays, the carnivals  
Her love lies, a burden  
On my heavy heart  
A heap of guilt on my mind  
Then a kind Harmattan wind

Blows me back to my kin  
But home can never be  
This strange place I see  
For Home is still old and safe  
A lump in my broken heart, unchanged.

#### 5. **Yesterday - BY GODSWILL SAMUEL**

Yesterday I saw a bloom  
Of two pretty flowers  
Blossoming in beauty  
Today they predict a doom  
Of these two pretty flowers  
Crumbling in tomorrow's duty  
They say time is such a foe  
They say the future we do not know  
But should this stop us to sow?  
For the tomorrow we all fear  
Is Today that is here  
Once the "future" of yesterday.  
Years-terday they sang the doom  
Of one who never cowers  
Performing his duty  
Today they watch him bloom  
This one who never cowers  
Crowned in tomorrow's beauty.

**WORDS OFTEN  
MISPRONOUNCED**

(Each child in this category  
must learn the right  
pronunciations of these  
words)

1. Debt
2. Chocolate
3. Dove
4. Foetus
5. Division
6. Data
7. Decision
8. Douche
9. Despise
10. Discernible
11. Direct
12. Dichotomy
13. Denouement
14. Dessert
15. Dough
16. Depot
17. Confusion
18. Cucumber
19. Chimera
20. Cyan
21. Chicago
22. Climb
23. Chiropody
24. Crochet
25. Conclusion
26. Espionage
27. Enough
28. Epitome
29. Eke
30. Ewe
31. Education
32. Elite
33. Explosion
34. Exhaust
35. Erosion
36. Exclusion
37. Earth
38. Favourite
39. Facet

40. Fish
41. Fuchsia
42. Facetious
43. Forte
44. Fusion
45. Flood
46. Flour
47. Federal
48. Guava
49. Good
50. Genre
51. Guitar
52. Guilt
53. Gnash
54. Gourmet
55. Gun
56. Glory
57. Garage
58. Hasten
59. Hearth
60. Honour
61. Handiwork
62. How
63. Heir
64. Hour
65. Haemoglobin
66. Honey
67. Hut
68. Igloo
69. Invasion
70. Illinois
71. Inclusion
72. Jeopardy
73. Jumped
74. Kangaroo
75. Love
76. Luxurious
77. Laurel
78. Lieutenant
79. Leicester
80. Learn
81. Leisure
82. Lamb
83. Legal
84. Listen
85. Laughed
86. Leopard
87. Machete

88. Machine
89. Market
90. Gourmet
91. Lava
92. Michigan
93. Doctor
94. Cleanse
95. Mayonnaise
96. Presentation
97. Abattoir
98. Apostle
99. Who
100. Chocolate
101. Chic
102. Sachet
103. Worked
104. Vision
105. Wicked
106. Tomb
107. Yacht
108. Women
109. lieutenant
110. Sacred