

## COMM 415/Hest

### Additional Information on Oral Interpretation Introductions

1. **Questions** to ask yourself about the introduction to your selection:

#### Does this introduction....

-Capture the **interest** of the listeners?

-Provide relevance for the listeners (what is the universal **theme** that connects us to the selection/how does this selection apply to our lives)?

-Identify the author and the title?

-**Set up** the selection and characters as necessary?

2. Before the introduction, you can pull a short section from your selection to use as a **teaser** (you won't use that section in your performance). This performs the function of capturing the audience's attention. If you do not use a teaser, the first line of your introduction needs to capture **interest**/attention.

3. After you share your introduction, you should **pause** and then state the title and author again, pause, and then begin your interpretation.

#### Sample Introductions:

*Some of her girlfriends questioned the choice she had made. Sonja was very beautiful . . . . Furthermore she loved to laugh . . . Ove - he'd been a grumpy old man since he started elementary school. But to Sonja . . . . when she took hold of his lower arm . . . and tickled him until that sulky boy's face opened up in a smile . . . it was if something started singing in Sonja. And they belonged only to her, those moments. (Teaser)*

Fredrik Backman's bestseller A Man Called Ove illustrates the endearing power of love. The story shows us that devotion sees what is beneath the outside demeanor and recognizes the goodness and sweetness the rests inside. **(Theme)** We follow the journey of Ove as he learns to let his messy new neighbors and - god forbid - a stray cat into his orderly life. **(Set-up)**

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

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*I'm a goddamn partner in a f\*#@ing law firm. In the last hour I spent 20 minutes trying to home-school my two kids and the rest of the time crying in the bathroom with a package of Oreos. There is no doubt in my mind that teachers should be paid \$17 million a year. #FuCovid19*

**(Teaser)**

The current pandemic and the ensuing school closures have made life challenging for parents, students, and educators alike. In the following compilation of tweets from parents trying to “teach at home,” **(Set-up)** we see some of the trials, tests, insights, and joys of “home schooling” your own children. As educators, we get a chance to see what it’s like on the other side of the computer screen. As parents, we get a feel for what teachers face in the classroom every single day. **(Theme)** Kudos to both.

Tweets from Home - a collection from the Internet. Various authors.

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We always think that we will have plenty of time. **(Relevance)** Time to call that person, take that trip, make that visit, send that card, and so on. And then that time is gone and we are left adrift. The following two poems poignantly explore our sadness and regret as a result of missed opportunities to share our feelings. **(Theme)** In the first poem, Yesterday by W.S. Merwin, a man realizes painfully too late that he was not a good son to his father. Wendell Berry in his poem, To My Mother, writes of his marvel at her absolute forgiveness of him - an always rebellious son. **(Set-up)**

First, Yesterday by W.S. Merwin