

PRESENTER: _____

"THE HANGMAN" RECITATION

Then through the town the hangman came,
through the empty streets and called my name.
And I looked at the gallows soaring tall
and thought there's no one left at all

for hanging, and so he called to me
to help take down the gallows tree.
So I went out with right good hope
to the hangman's tree and the hangman's rope.

He smiled at me as I came down
to the courthouse square through the silent town.
And supple and stretched in his busy hand
was the yellow twist of hempen strand.

He whistled his tune as he tried the trap,
and it sprang down with a ready snap.
Then with a smile of awful command,
He laid his hand upon my hand.

"You tricked me Hangman!" I shouted then,
"that your scaffold was built for other men,
and I'm no henchman of yours!" I cried.
"You lied to me Hangman, foully lied."

Then a twinkle grew in his buckshot eye,
"Lied to you? Tricked you?" he said. "Not I.
For I answered straight, and I told you true,
the scaffold was raised for none but you."

"For who has served more faithfully,
Than you with your coward's hope?" said He.
"And where are the others who might have stood
side by your side in the common good?"

"Dead." I whispered. And amiably,
"Murdered," the hangman corrected me.
"First the foreigner then the Jew,
I did no more than you let me do."

Beneath the beam that blocked the sky
none had stood so alone as I.
The hangman noosed me, and no voice there
cried "STOP" for me in the empty square.

FINAL = _____ / 100 points

CATEGORY	PTS. POSS.	PTS. EARN.	COMMENTS
POEM KNOWLEDGE	75		
VOLUME	5		
TONE & EXPRESSION	5		
FLUENCY	5		
EYE CONTACT	5		
GESTURES / POSTURE	5		

