



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Stark Reading Contest

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### **Congratulations to Stark Reading Contest Winners at Orangefield High School**

(ORANGE, Texas) – Orangefield High School students Brayden Berry and Ryan Posey earned first place in Declamation and Interpretive Reading, respectively, at the school-level finals of the 113<sup>th</sup> Miriam Lutchter Stark Contest in Reading and Declamation, a scholarship program sponsored by the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutchter Stark Foundation.

On March 2, 2017, Orangefield High School students competed in the local-level contest, which was coordinated by Ron Chevalier, Orangefield High School teacher and school director for the Stark Reading Contest. Berry won first place in Declamation with Ryan Sandburg's speech at the Baseball Hall of Fame, while Posey won first place in Interpretive Reading with his presentation of an excerpt from Albert Camus' *The Stranger*. Second place in Declamation went to Sydney Catt, with Whitley Hoyland receiving second-place honors in Interpretive Reading.

Stark Reading Contest 2016 county final participant Katy Swiere served as the emcee for the Orangefield competition. Zach Quinn, Orangefield High School Principal, presented the awards to the 2016-17 school-level contest winners.

Each second-place winner was awarded \$1,500 in scholarships from the Stark Foundation, while the two first-place winners were awarded \$2,000 in scholarships. The first-place winners from Orangefield High School will go on to compete against the first-place winners from other participating Orange County public high schools at the County Final of the Stark Reading Contest, which is scheduled for Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 2 p.m. at the Lutchter Theater.

The Stark Reading Contest is sponsored by the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation as part of its continuing mission to enrich the quality of life in the Orange community and encourage education. The aim of the Contest is to enhance the literary and forensic quality and skills of Orange County public high school students. The Contest has continued annually since its inception in 1904, which makes the 2016-17 school year the 113<sup>th</sup> annual year of the Contest. In addition to offering educational opportunities and experiences for students at eligible Orange County public high schools, participating students may earn scholarship awards for continued education.



The 2017 winners of the Orangefield school-level competition held March 2nd at Orangefield Elementary (Left to Right): Sydney Catt: 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Declamation; Brayden Berry: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Declamation; Ryan Posey: 1<sup>st</sup> place, Interpretive Reading; Whitley Hoyland: 2<sup>nd</sup> place, Interpretive Reading.

For larger or high-resolution images, contact Amanda Adams at [aadams@starkfoundation.org](mailto:aadams@starkfoundation.org).

### **About the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation**

The Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation is a private operating foundation established in 1961 to encourage and assist education and to improve and enrich the quality of life in Southeast Texas.

The Stark Foundation seeks to continue the legacy of its founders through the programs of the Stark Museum of Art, Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, The W.H. Stark House, and the Frances Ann Lutcher Theater for the Performing Arts, as well as through the Miriam Lutcher Stark Contest in Reading and Declamation, a qualified scholarship program for public high school students in Orange County, Texas. These venues, programs and activities provide the community and region with rich resources and opportunities for study and enjoyment of the arts, nature, history, and culture as well as literary endeavors.