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## **NARRATOR SELECTION**

Thank you for showing an interest in being a volunteer narrator for the Queensland Narrating Service. The selection of narrators is of paramount importance if a high standard of audio production is to be achieved. The goal is to produce a recording that is an accurate reproduction of the text, a faithful transmission of the author's intentions, and of good sound quality. In selecting narrators the following criteria are considered:

- tonal quality, range and modulation
- voice production, breath control and reading pace
- diction
- expression, fluency and verbal punctuation
- command of spoken language
- accuracy
- comprehension of material read
- characterisation ability

### **Some hints:**

#### **1. Voice**

The narrator's voice, when recorded, must be:

- clear, firm and distinct
- flexible enough to avoid monotonous or repetitive vocal patterns
- free of strain or tension
- able to sustain energy for reasonable periods of time
- free from uncontrollable conditions (dental, asthmatic, nervous, etc.)
- free of impure tonal characteristics (scratchiness, nasalness, raspiness, etc.)

#### **2. Speech**

The narrator's speech must be:

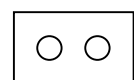
- free from excessive colouration or accents
- free from mannerisms that detract from the text
- at a pace appropriate to the text

#### **3. Accuracy**

There is no such thing as an unimportant mistake. The entire work must be an accurate recording of the printed text, word by word, from cover to cover.

#### **4. Pronunciation**

Pronunciation must be accurate and consistent. It should be appropriate to the style and period of the material and to the nature of the characters, and should convey the meaning of the author.



**5. Interpretation**

- the narrator's rendition must be faithful to the author's intention
- expression must at all times be appropriate to the emotional level of the material being narrated
- the narrator, by skilful use of timing and inflection, must clearly differentiate between narrative and dialogue, and between various characters depicted
- if character voices are used, each separate vocal characterisation must possess the same ease, flow and vocal range as the normal narrative voice. Characterisations which are strained, unclear, inconsistent or overplayed (including dialects and accents) are unacceptable
- the narrator must allow the author to make his own impression on the reader and must not make any editorial comment or impose his/her views by tone of voice

