

Harmony Tree International Speech Festival (HTISF)
2024-2025 Set Pieces for Asia Division

FINAL

Monologue
Born in 2015-2016

Choice A
Time Limit:
3 minutes

Jane Eyre

By Charlotte Brontë, an adapted version.

(Jane is a young orphan living in a loveless home. In this scene, she has been locked in 'the red room' in which her uncle passed.)

JANE: Let me out! Let me out! I won't say my prayers. I won't! I don't care if Miss Abbott is right and something bad does come down the chimney to take me away. I really wish it would, then I wouldn't have to live in this horrible house again. But... I don't think it will and I'm scared. Scared of this lonely, cold bedroom; scared of those shadows and flickering lights.

Oh, my hand is aching so much after that fall! It just isn't fair to lock me away in here. If Uncle Reed had been alive he would never have allowed them to be so hard and cruel to me. Oh, why did they do it? Why?

Oh! There's a light on the wall and it's moving towards me. Oh look, the shadows and the lights... they seem to be moving across the room. They 're coming closer. They're closing in on me. Help! Help! Bessie! Aunt! I can't bear it any longer! Let me out! Let me out! Please open the door. Please take me out. Let me go to the nursery. I'm afraid. Let me hold your hand, Bessie. Please don't turn away from me. Oh aunt, have pity. Forgive me! I can't endure it. Let me be punished some other way.

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The Wind in the Willows

By Kenneth Grahame, adapted by Vivien Heilbron

(Badger, Mole and Rat are Mr Toad's best friends. They have been trying to keep him out of trouble for a long time, but he is constantly in trouble with motor-cars, caravans and other crazy escapades. Here, Badger outlines his plans to 'convert' Toad.)

BADGER: Good morning, Rat! Good morning, Mole! This is a formal call, you fellows! Summer is here — so — the hour has come! Whose hour, I hear you ask! Why, Toad's hour! I said I would take him in hand as soon as the winter was well and truly over, and I am going to take him in hand — TODAY!! Now — I shall need you chaps to back me up — but I have a sound plan — and some very important news. May I — *(sits down)*

This very morning, as I learnt last night from a trustworthy source, another new and exceptionally powerful motor-car will arrive at Toad Hall on approval or return. At this very moment, perhaps Toad is busily arraying himself in those singularly hideous habiliments so dear to him, which transform him from a comparatively good-looking Toad into an Object which throws any decent-minded animal that comes across it into a violent fit. We must be up and doing, ere it is too late. You two animals will accompany me instantly to Toad Hall, and the work of rescue shall be accomplished. We'll save the poor unhappy animal! We'll rescue him! We'll convert him! He'll be the most converted Toad that ever was before we've done with him!

Yes indeed, the hour has come! Gentlemen — follow me! Onwards!