

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

FINAL

Prose Reading
Born in 2017-2018

The Velveteen Rabbit

by Margery Williams

They were rabbits like himself, but quite furry and brand-new.

They must have been very well made, for their seams didn't show at all, and they changed shape in a queer way when they moved;

one minute they were long and thin and the next minute fat and bunchy, instead of always staying the same like he did.

They were evidently a new kind of rabbit altogether.

They stared at him, and the little Rabbit stared back. And all the time their noses twitched.

“Why don't you get up and play with us?” one of them asked.

“I don't feel like it,” said the Rabbit, for he didn't want to explain that he had no clockwork.

“Ho!” said the furry rabbit. “It's as easy as anything,” And he gave a big hop sideways and stood on his hind legs.

“I don't believe you can!” he said.

“I can!” said the little Rabbit. “I can jump higher than anything!”

He meant when the Boy threw him, but of course he didn't want to say so.