

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

FINAL

Monologue
Born in 2013-2014

Choice A
Time Limit:
4 minutes

Molly

By Ruth Mae Roddy

(Molly has to play the piano because her parents want her to, but she is not happy about it. Here she describes why piano lessons are no fun at all.)

MOLLY: I have to take these stupid piano lessons every Wednesday after school. From old Mrs Campbell. She's like this big tall lady who lives over on Euclid Avenue. She has a great big grand piano in her living room where she teaches a whole bunch of kids. Her house is always freezing cold in the winter.

Mrs Campbell sits next to me on the piano bench and yells at me when I make a mistake. I hate piano lessons and I tell my mom I do but she doesn't listen. Nobody listens to kids.

I'm in the beginners' book. It's supposed to be real easy, but it isn't. It's real hard. The hardest part for me is trying to keep the right time. I can't. Even though Mrs Campbell counts out loud. "One-two-three-four, one-two-three-four". So far, after almost a year, all I can play are these dumb little pieces. Mostly only with my right hand. My left hand doesn't work right.

I have to practice every day, too. While other kids are out playing, I have to stay in and do my piano lesson. I keep telling Mom how much I hate it but she says I have talent. Know what? Having talent isn't any fun.

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Treasure Island

By Robert Louis Stevenson

(This story sets in a coastal town in Devon during the 18th Century. Jim Hawkins, a young and impressionable boy, whose mother owns the Admiral Benbow Inn. They find a packet from one of their guests Billy Bones after he died. In this scene, Jim takes the packet to Squire Trelawney and Dr Livesey and finds out there is a map of treasures.)

JIM HAWKINS: Doctor Livesey? I have brought you the packet, sir. Here it is! Shall I open it for you sir? It seems to contain a book and a sealed paper. Shall we look at the book sir? There's some writing on the first page. Look at this! It is the same as the tattoo mark. It says, "Billy Bones his fancy"— and there's another one — "Mr W Bones, mate'. Perhaps it is like a diary. I wonder what "Off Palm Key he got it" means!

I cannot understand this part at all! It doesn't make any sense. Sometimes a place name appears to have been added - like "Off Caracas". I think this covers about 20 years - and right at the end there is a much altered 'grand total' and the words 'Bones his pile'. You were right all along sir. We have found his account book!

I can't believe our luck! Look. Here is a map of an island - with latitude and longitude, soundings, names of hills and inlets - and every particular that would be needed to bring a ship to safe anchorage. It's got something written in the middle - let me see - It says "The spy glass". Oh, Dr Livesey, it says 'Bulk of treasures here.'" That's in different handwriting! We've found the treasure-map! You'll be rich!