

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

Monologue
Born in 2013-2014

Choice A
Time Limit:
4 minutes

The Wild Animal Song Contest

By Adrian Mitchell

(This play describes a competition to see which animal from which nation can produce the best song. Kingsley DEBIT, a King Penguin, is the host of the show. This scene takes place in the dressing room where Debit, with a fake microphone, is conducting a rehearsal.)

KINGSLEY DEBIT: We've got to get on with rehearsals. First of all, I'll remind you of the rules. Rule One: each animal shall perform a song written by itself. Rule Two: each animal will be interviewed before performing and reply politely when asked about its hobbies and ambitions. Rule Three: songs about famine or unemployment - are not to be sung. Rule Four: there must be no songs which make fun of human beings, or penguins. Rule Five: for the contest itself, but not for rehearsals, the singers will perform wearing human being costumes and masks. This will add dignity to the proceedings. Rule Six: the winner will be awarded the title, King or Queen of the Animals. Now, we've just time to rehearse the show. It'll take Quilla in front of the cameras first. The rest of you - vanish yourselves and get ready.

I'm going to start the rehearsal now! Action! And now I'd like to introduce the unique, the amazing, the absolutely superfluous Inter-Galactic Universal Wild Animal Song Contest, coming to you live from The Crystal Palace...

I'm your loveable host, Kingsley Debit, and we're going to have fun! And here comes our first competitor. Will you please put your wings together for Quilla, the Golden Eagle!

- The End-

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Sheer Genius

By Mark Twain, an adapted version of Tom Sawyer

(TOM is a young boy who is being brought up by his strict Aunt Polly. In this scene, he is not pleased that he has been told to whitewash the fence on a Saturday morning. He is holding a brush ready to do the work.)

TOM: It's just not fair. It's a lovely morning. Just the day to go fishing! Look at that fence! 30 yards and 9 foot high! I'll never finish it. I shall be the laughing stock of the town. I must try and find a way out of it. I haven't even got enough things to trade! A marble... a broken toy... just trash! Wait a moment! I've got a plan... a really good plan! There's Ben Rogers now. I'll try it out on him.

Hmmm... I like the look of the apple he's eating. A big, juicy one! Ah! He's seen me. Now, I'll pretend not to have seen him. Why, it's you Ben. I didn't notice! Work! You think I've got to work? This isn't work! It's really interesting and I like it! Does a boy get the chance to whitewash a fence every day? Just watch me and see what I mean. Do you want a go? No... no, I reckon it would hardly do. You see, Aunt Polly's very particular about this fence because it's on the street. It would have been different if it was the back fence... but, it's got to be done very carefully. I reckon there isn't one boy in a thousand - maybe two thousand - that could do it the way it's got to be done! Jim and Sid wanted to do it but she wouldn't let them. So, you see how I'm fixed! If you did tackle this fence and anything happened to it... Well, I suppose I might let you... if you were to give me your apple. The whole of it!

What a pushover! That was easy! I'll soon get it finished this way. I'll get all the boys wanting to take a turn and I'll get some treasures to keep as well! Go, on Ben. Make sure it's nice and smooth! Sheer genius!

- The End -