

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

**Prose Reading**  
*Born in 2013-2014*

## **Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator**

*by Roald Dahl*

“Madam,” said Mr Wonka, “it is not a lift any longer. Lifts only go up and down inside buildings. But now that it has taken us up into the sky, it has become an ELEVATOR. It is THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR.”

“And what keeps it up?” said Grandma Josephine.

“Skyhooks,” said Mr Wonka.

“You amaze me,” said Grandma Josephine.

“Dear lady,” said Mr Wonka, “you are new to the scene. When you have been with us a little longer, nothing will amaze you.”

“These skyhooks, I assume one end is hooked on to this contraption we’re riding in. Right? What’s the other end hooked on to?” said Grandma Josephine.

“Every day,” said Mr Wonka, “I get deafer and deafer. Remind me, please, to call up my ear doctor the moment we get back.”

“Charlie,” said Grandma Josephine. “I don’t think I trust this gentleman very much.”

“Nor do I,” said Grandma Georgina. “He footles around.”

Charlie leaned over the bed and whispered to the two old women. “Please,” he said, “don’t spoil everything. Mr Wonka is a fantastic man. He’s my friend. I love him.”

“We must hurry!” said Mr Wonka. “We have so much time and so little to do! No! Wait! Cross that out! Reverse it! Thank you! Now back to the factory!” he cried, clapping his hands once and springing two feet in the air with two feet. “Back we fly to the factory! But we must go up before we can come down. We must go higher and higher!”