

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

Dramatic Duologue
Born in 2015-2016

Choice A
Time Limit:
3 minutes

Squeak and Maiow!

By L.E. McCullough

(A CAT and a RAT lived together in harmony on a beautiful island. They weren't satisfied with the good life they had, however, and wanted more. In this scene, they leave the island together to explore the mainland. CAT and RAT sit next to each other, facing audience and making rowing motions.)

CAT: This manioc root makes a good boat, Rat.

RAT: You bet. It's sturdy and tastes good!

CAT: Hmmm, that reminds me... I'm hungry. What do we have to eat?

RAT: Let's see... we have... uhhh... we have...

CAT: I'm sure hungry!

RAT: Uhhh... let's see...

CAT: I'm really, really, really hungry! What's for supper?

RAT: Nothing. We apparently forgot to bring any food.

CAT: Apparently or actually?

RAT: Actually and completely. There is no food.

CAT: Ahhhh! We're in the middle of the ocean, miles away from land, and we have no food?

RAT: Well, if you want to put it *that* way...

CAT: How would *you* put it?

RAT: Basically, we're going to die. But don't panic.

CAT: If we don't panic, what do we do?

RAT: I'm going to save my energy and go to sleep.

CAT: That's the best idea I've heard all day!

(CAT begins to snore. RAT rises on elbow and speaks to audience)

RAT: I just remembered something. This boat is made of manioc root. And manioc root is a food we Rats love very much. Shhhh! I'll just nibble a little bit from the bottom of the boat.

(RAT leans over and nibbles floor; CAT awakes groggily and looks over at RAT, who pretends to be asleep)

CAT: Hmmm I could swear I heard a very strange noise. Oh, well...

RAT: Oh, this is so delicious!

CAT: Where is that noise coming from? I must be delirious from hunger. Oh well...

RAT: Oh, yum-yum-yum-yum-yum... just another little bite... whoops!

(RAT falls backwards; CAT startles awake)

CAT: What's all the noise?

RAT: Noise? You mean the water rushing into the boat?

CAT: Water! Aiiiee! Where did *that* come from?

(CAT backs up, squats as if avoiding water)

RAT: It appears there is a hole in the bottom of the boat.

CAT: A hole! Where did *that* come from?

RAT: It appears someone's tooth has eaten a hole through the manioc root.

CAT: A tooth! And where did - *(Looks at RAT and suddenly comprehends)* You miserable, no-good, low-down -

RAT: Don't panic! This is not a time to panic!

CAT: Rat-faced...

RAT: Careful! I resemble that remark! Besides, this situation is not as bad as it looks.

CAT: Our situation? Let's review our situation. *You* talk me into leaving our island paradise, *you* forget to bring food, and — while *I* am starving - *you* eat a hole in our boat!
Did I leave anything out?

RAT: Yes! We just sank! Swim for the shore!

- The End-

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Choice B
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3 minutes

Robots-R-Us Dot Com

By Andrea Inglis

(A CUSTOMER phones the company that sold him/her a malfunctioning ROBOT.)

- CUSTOMER:** Hello, is that Robots-R-Us Dot Com?
- ROBOT:** Malfunction... malfunction...
- CUSTOMER:** I'm calling about the robot you delivered today.
- ROBOT:** Emergency... emergency!
- CUSTOMER:** No, I'm not happy with him.
- ROBOT:** Disaster... disaster...
- CUSTOMER:** I know he's a sort of guard to keep the family safe but...
- ROBOT:** Man overboard... man overboard.
- CUSTOMER:** But he won't shut up.
- ROBOT:** Women and children first.
- CUSTOMER:** Of course I want to keep my family safe!
- ROBOT:** Red alert... red alert...
- CUSTOMER:** Some of his safety advice is just nonsense.
- ROBOT:** Hurricane approaching.
- CUSTOMER:** He's getting on my nerves. I would like you to come and take him back.
- ROBOT:** Batten down the hatches.
- CUSTOMER:** See, there he goes, talking nonsense again. Complete and utter tosh, if you ask me.
- ROBOT:** Mind the gap... mind the gap.
- CUSTOMER:** So when can you come and get him?
- ROBOT:** Level three... doors closing...
- CUSTOMER:** Of course he can't come to the phone.
- ROBOT:** *(Walks over and snatches the phone)* Hi Mick. It's Ronnie here.
- CUSTOMER:** What?
- ROBOT:** *(Speaking on the phone)* Yeah, I don't want to stay anyway.
- CUSTOMER:** You are a complete and utter phoney!

ROBOT: I had you fooled for a while though.
CUSTOMER: Ha, you didn't fool me for one minute. Now get out of here.
ROBOT: Okay, keep your hair on, I'm going.
CUSTOMER: And good riddance... Mind the step!
ROBOT: *(Trips over)* Ahhhh! You should have warned me, sooner.
CUSTOMER: Oh, sorry about that, Ronnie. *(In mock robotic voice)* Mind the step...
mind the step...

- The End-