

**Harmony Tree International Speech Festival (HTISF)**  
2025-2026 Set Pieces for Asia Division

**FINAL**

**Dramatic Duologue**  
*Born in 2010-2011*

**Choice A**  
**Time Limit:**  
**5 minutes**

## Doing a Play

*by Jenny Thornton*

*(Morgan and Riley are at school. They are thinking of ideas for a play to perform for their drama lesson.)*

**MORGAN:** I've got it. I've got the perfect idea for our play, for drama. You know how we've been studying the Romans well we can be the Romans and the English discussing the future.

**RILEY:** OK I'll be a Roman and...

**MORGAN:** No wait a minute, it's my idea, I get to choose what part I play and I want to be the Roman.

**RILEY:** All right, I'll be the Englishman and we'll have a mock battle with our swords.

*(They mime a fight)*

**MORGAN:** What are you doing?

**RILEY:** I'm killing you with my sword.

**MORGAN:** But I'm the winner. Everybody knows that the Romans were more powerful than the English.

**RILEY:** Oh! I see. Not only do you get to play the Roman but you win as well.

**MORGAN:** That's the whole point.

**RILEY:** If that's the case, I'm not doing it. *(Pause — both think)* I still think we should do mime, Miss loves mime.

**MORGAN:** That's all very well and good but we need an idea.

**RILEY:** How about a superhero?

**MORGAN:** I don't see why not. I can be the superhero and you can be the baddie.

**RILEY:** Hang on a minute, if you were the Roman because it was your idea then I get to play the superhero.

**MORGAN:** Mmmm. Have you got the cape with you?

**RILEY:** Yep. It's here. I'll put it on and we'll have a practice.

*(They mime a scene but it quickly ends in a fight.)*

**MORGAN:** This is silly you're too weedy to play a superhero, we'll have to swap.

**RILEY:** OK *(They mime the scene again but it ends in a fight.)*

**MORGAN:** This is hopeless we just keep fighting.

**RILEY:** Miss will go mad if all we do is fight.

**MORGAN:** *(Mimicking teacher)* ‘There’s absolutely no dramatic quality in fighting children.’

**RILEY:** *(Mimicking teacher)* ‘If you want to roll around on the floor then join a judo class.’

**MORGAN:** *(Mimicking teacher)* ‘I can’t grade a fight.’

**RILEY:** *(Mimicking teacher)* ‘You’ll have to start again.’

**MORGAN:** Trouble is, she’s right.

**RILEY:** That means we’re back to square one.

**MORGAN:** How about the Gladiators and the lions?

**RILEY:** *(They fight and then pauses)* A scene from Wonder Woman?

**MORGAN:** *(They fight and then pause)* A Shakespearean play?

**RILEY:** *(They fight and then pause)* A scene at the school canteen?

**MORGAN:** Doesn’t bear thinking about. But that’s it.

**RILEY:** What the school canteen? We can’t do a play about chips and burgers. She’ll go potty.

**MORGAN:** No, no not the canteen. We’ll do a play about doing a play. That way we avoid just fighting. We’ll have scenes when we’re really discussing some meaty plots. We’ll have a mime and movement scene, use music and end with us working together in harmony. She’ll love that!

**RILEY:** Stroke of genius. We can have the leader, the one who always thinks of the best ideas and the other one can be the dumb one. Miss is always saying that you need contrast and they would be very different.

**MORGAN:** A play about a play and no fighting at all. We are the best.

**RILEY:** The tops.

**MORGAN:** The stars.

**RILEY:** The best actors in the school.

**MORGAN:** Yes, and with me being the best actor I’ll be the leader.

**RILEY:** What!

*(They look at each other, look at the audience, look at each other, and then go fight each other.)*

- The End-

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**Choice B**  
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**5 minutes**

## **Kidnapped at Christmas**

*By Willis Hall*

*(Two convicts, GILBERT and CROSBY, are chatting in a prison cell...but they catch sight of the audience.)*

**GILBERT:** *(Singing)* Good King Wenceslas knocked a bobby senseless, right in the middle of Marks and Spencers...

**CROSBY:** Shut up!

**GILBERT:** Sorry...I'm only trying to cheer us up Crosby.

**CROSBY:** Don't bother. This is no place to be on Christmas Eve.

**GILBERT:** Shall I sing: 'While shepherds watched their turnip tops'?

**CROSBY:** No! You know where we should be tonight, don't you? Out there, doing evil things. This could be the best night of the year for us, doing evil things. This could be the best night of the year for us, and where are we? In flipping clink!

**GILBERT:** Chicken dinner tomorrow Crosby, and Christmas pud!

**CROSBY:** Chicken dinner? Chicken dinner? I want no chicken dinner; not PRISON chicken dinner, all cold and greasy, horrible clammy sprouts, lumpy mashed spuds. I want my freedom matey, that's what I want. I want to enjoy myself... What prison are we in?

**GILBERT:** Maximum security.

**CROSBY:** I thought we must be. *(Spotting the audience, here they will briefly break the fourth wall.)* They've put us in with a load of rascals and villains! Look at 'em! Fancy being stuck here at Christmas with them ugly mugs staring at you!

**GILBERT:** The little ones aren't so bad. It's the big ones that are ugly.

**CROSBY:** They all look ugly. What are they in for?

**GILBERT:** They're the audience...mums, dads and kids... they could help us to escape!

**CROSBY:** Escape?

**GILBERT:** Yes, tonight!

**CROSBY:** Do you think they would?

**GILBERT:** If you stop calling them names, they might. You could try being nice to them.

**CROSBY:** Hello kiddies, mums and dads! Are you all enjoying yourselves? Hands up all the

little boys and girls who came in Daddy's car this afternoon...good. Now, I want you to slip your hand nice and gently into Daddy's pocket and nick the car keys!

**GILBERT:** That's awful!

**CROSBY:** But if we're going to make a quick getaway, we're going to need some wheels.

**GILBERT:** Listen to this! I create a fuss, we start shouting until the Warder comes in. We say: "Help us! There's a big hairy spider climbing up the wall!"

**CROSBY:** Where? Where? I'll smash it! I'll stamp on it! I hate spiders...

**GILBERT:** There isn't really a spider. That's just what we tell him. The Warder comes in. We snatch his truncheon, then when he's bending down to find the spider, we bop him on the nut!

**CROSBY:** With his truncheon?

**GILBERT:** Yes.

**CROSBY:** Great Gilbert!

**GILBERT:** Do you like it?

**CROSBY:** Fantastic. I'll give it to him! Wham! Bang!

**GILBERT:** Off we go then...

- The End-