

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

FINAL

Monologue
Born in 2012-2013

Choice A
Time Limit:
4 minutes

Blue Tongue

By Evan Placey, an adapted version

(Jamie is at the GP's, chatting to the doctor about his fluorescent blue tongue. Jamie tries to convince the doctor to agree to the plan before Mum re-enters the room.)

JAMIE: Let's level with each other, yeah? Forget the doctor coat. Forget the school blazer. Just two people. Two people with two minutes to reach an agreement before my mum comes back in.

Here's the plan. You'll reassure her there's nothing wrong. She'll insist there is. It's not every day her kid has a fluorescent blue tongue, right? She'll start threatening all sorts of things—local press, lawsuits, maybe even our street WhatsApp group. That group is vicious. I mean... bins on the wrong day? Nightmare.

Then, as mum's yelling about how everyone's going to leave your surgery, you'll feel tempted to calmly explain that my blue tongue is just from the blue lollipop I stole from my sister's birthday box. That would turn her ire toward me, and... well, the video game I asked for? Forget it.

So. Good doctor. Here's what I'm asking: tell my mum I have some kind of terrible illness. You've got bigger problems than me. Forty-four seconds. Go! But don't worry, I've got your back.

My diagnosis? The giraffe. Yep. Blue tongues. Fun fact. And, conveniently, my class went to the zoo last week. So, just tell Mum that a blue-tongued giraffe passed some saliva my way while I was feeding it. Simple.

Look, I can't do everything, doc. You need to take initiative. I have faith in you. And yes... there's a delicious blue lollipop waiting if you pull this off.

Okay, here we go. And, as ironic as it feels to say this to a doctor: break a leg, doc.

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Witches Incorporated

By Nan Woodhouse

(ANNIE is an experienced White Witch, a genial lady. She lives next door to Milly, who is less pleasant. In this scene, Annie contacts Milly through the wall of her house to tell her about an advertisement she has seen in the newspaper.)

ANNIE: *(Reading from newspaper)* ‘Magic for beginners. How to afford more capacious cauldrons, bigger and better broomsticks...’ *(continuing to read with little sounds of surprise and delight)* OO...MM...OH! ‘Enrol now for the Whatsit Academy of Witches and Wizards. Learn to make an effective spell in ten easy lessons.’ Oh! Blisters, bunions, backache, boils - what a thing to matriculate in Magic!

(She rises and hops around the table in delight, singing.) Oom pa pa, oom pa pa. *(Stops suddenly.)* I’ll make a wall-call... Must tell Milly...silly Milly.

(Crosses to wall and taps three times.) Oom pa pa, oom pa pa. *(Listens.)* Millicent? *(Knocks again.)*

Where is the silly old... *(Her voice changes suddenly as Milly thumps back from her side of the wall.)* Milly! And how are you this morning dear? *(She make sympathetic noises)* Oh? Mm? There, there. How often have I told you, dear - never go out on the broomstick without your hat - not in an east wind, dear, it’s asking for rheumatic-toothache.

(After a second) Tell me, dearie, have you seen the paper? Page two, ‘HALLOWEEN OFFERS - MAGIC FOR BEGIN - What? *(Pause as she listens to Milly’s tirade from beyond the wall.)* Not a beginner exactly... What? Yes, I do remember your enchanted elephant. No, dear... No, dear...

(Thump from the other side of the wall. Annie covers her ears.) That’s done it! *(Annie seizes her cloak and throws it around her.)* Enchanted elephants! I’ll show her! *(She crosses and collects newspaper. Puts fingers in her mouth and whistles loudly. A broomstick flies in, she mounts and circles the room awkwardly.)* I could certainly use a new broomstick. *(She pats the broom)* not complaining, Bertie, but you are getting a bit long in the too...OOP! *(The broomstick shoots forward and they exit through the window).*