

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

Verse Speaking
Born in 2011-2012

Choice A

Marmalade

by Peter Dixon

He's buried in the bushes,
with dockleaves round his grave,
A crimecat desperado
and his name was Marmalade.
He's the cat that caught the pigeon
that stole the neighbour's meat...,
and tore the velvet curtains
and stained the satin seat.
He's the cat that spoilt the laundry,
he's the cat that spilt the stew,
and chased the lady's poodle
and scratched her daughter too.

But —

No more we'll hear his cat-flap,
or scratches at the door,
or see him at the window,
or hear his catnap snore.

So —

Ring his grave with pebbles,
erect a noble sign —
For here lies Mr Marmalade
and Marmalade was MINE.

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

Verse Speaking
Born in 2011-2012

Choice B

City Lights

by Margaret Greaves

Huge round oranges of light
Ripen against the thin dark of the city sky,
Spilling their juice in warm pools
on bare dry pavements.
Below them blink the traffic lights
like the eyes of enormous cats
Crouching in the dark -
Crouching and breathing with the
heavy purr of the traffic;
And winking tail lights slide and dart
like goldfish
In the pale streams pouring from
shop windows.