

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

FINAL

Monologue
Born in 2010-2011

Choice A
Time Limit:
4 minutes

This Massive Universe

By Hannah Kennedy

(When Juno is abducted by aliens and shown the wonders of the universe, their mind is blown. Back on Earth, Juno struggles to adjust to normal life. Juno explains his feelings to his best friend, who is worried about his behaviour.)

JUNO: I know I've been acting weird! I know! I'm not stupid. Okay? I know sometimes I seem like I'm mentally on another planet. And I know you probably want to know why. You're my best friend. I get it. But... I don't think you would believe me if I did tell you.

And don't say you would! Because this one is, honestly, genuinely off the scale. I promise. I'm not just being vague for the fun of it to create some sort of air of mystery around me because, and I really mean this, if I thought you would believe me, I would tell you.

Come on. Don't you roll your eyes at me! I have been friends with you since we were six years old, do you really think I'd be trying to pull the wool over your eyes?

Fine! Fine. I'll tell you. But you can't tell anyone. Okay. So... You know how I disappeared for a couple of weeks over the summer? And everyone thought I'd been kidnapped. And then I turned up in the woods just a couple of miles outside of town? And I told everyone I couldn't remember where I went? Well., I do remember. I was abducted by aliens.

And yeah, I know that sounds like I've completely let my imagination run away, but it's the truth. I was abducted by aliens, and the things I saw...The aliens, they showed me the universe. They showed me how amazing and scary and...massive this universe is. Things that I don't think I will ever understand.

And then they brought me home. Back here. To my normal life, where I go to my normal school, and I hang out with my normal friends. And nobody understands, nobody gets it. I know so much, and I feel so, so alone. I look up at the night sky and see all those stars. And I feel so tiny. So, I'm sorry if I seem a little out of sorts. I'm trying to ... I don't know. I'm trying to find meaning again when I'm so insignificant, and this universe is so big.

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The Sand Dance

by Clare Price

(At a pavement coffee shop KELLY is explaining to two friends, Hugh and Katie, an idea for a school review.)

KELLY: Now, I'm directing the school review this year. So, this is the plan. I've been studying comedy acts and there's this really funny one on YouTube called Wilson, Keppel and Betty and they do this funny dance. So what I thought was we'd enter from stage right dressed as Egyptian attendants.

(Waitress appears. To friends) Oh yes, what do you want? *(To waitress)* Coke, Orange juice and a double mocha for me please. *(Gets out notepad and pencil from school bag)* I think we'll need some Egyptian Headdresses like this... And, well, jewellery. You know, bangles and things... No Hugh, nothing through the nose. Of course sandals and skirts. Oh sorry, I mean, shirts not skirts.

(Notices waitress hovering. To waitress) ... Oh I see. No double mocha? Well, I'll have straight mocha then. *(Quietly to friends)* So, oh wait, skirts, Egyptian skirts. They're like kilts really - men's skirts, and we'll do this dance - it's easy. I'll show you.

(Stands in a pose with bended knees and head in profile about to launch into the dance when interrupted by the waitress) What, no mocha either? Okay, I'll have a cappuccino then.

(Making sure waitress is gone before continuing) You put your hands like this, both sides of you, bend your knees and jut your head backwards and forwards like a chicken. *(As KELLY demonstrates this the waitress suddenly appears)* That was quick! *(Embarrassed. Returns to the table.)* Thank you.

Stop laughing! I thought we could start with that, then get Hugh to do his belly dance. Actually, you should be really good at it. You do it like this! *(KELLY stands and demonstrates belly dance)* You'll enter through those net curtains your mum lent us Katie. Then we'll escort Hugh to the throne, like this. *(Standing, sashays across courtyard with head moving like a chicken, turns, and is suddenly face to face with the waitress)...* Oh, the bill. Thank you.

(Hugh and Katie have left) Where've they gone? *(Quickly collects school bag. Finds coins in pocket which she tosses on the table. To waitress)* It wasn't that bad, was it?