



Harmony Tree International Speech Festival (HTISF)

2026-2027 Set Pieces for Asia Division

Prose Reading

Born in 2019-2020

Frog and Toad Are Friends

by Arnold Lobel

Frog knocked gently on Toad's door early one morning,
just as the sun was beginning to rise over the garden.

"Wake up, Toad," he called softly. "It is a beautiful day outside."

Toad groaned and pulled the blanket higher. "I am sleeping," he said.

"And sleeping is very important."

"But the morning is already here," Frog replied.

"The air is fresh, and everything looks bright and new."

Toad sat up slowly and rubbed his eyes. He walked to the window and looked outside.

The garden was glowing in warm sunlight.

Birds were hopping between the branches, singing as if they had no worries at all.

"I was having a very good dream," Toad said. "In my dream, I was still in bed."

Frog smiled kindly. "Dreams can wait. Real mornings are happening now."

Toad thought for a moment.

Then he let out a small sigh, got dressed, and followed Frog outside.

The world felt calm and full of possibility.

"Maybe this day will be better than I thought," Toad said.

Frog nodded. "It already is."