

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

FINAL

Verse Speaking
Born in 2012-2013

Choice A

The Tide Rises, The Tide Falls

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The tide rises, the tide falls,
The twilight darkens, the curlew calls;
Along the sea-sands damp and brown
The traveller hastens toward the town,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

Darkness settles on roofs and walls,
But the sea, the sea in the darkness calls;
The little waves, with their soft, white hands,
Efface the footprints in the sands,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

The morning breaks; the steeds in their stalls
Stamp and neigh, as the hostler calls;
The day returns, but nevermore
Returns the traveller to the shore,
And the tide rises, the tide falls.

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Choice B

ATIONS

by Shel Silverstein

If we meet and I say, “Hi,”
That’s a salutation.

If you ask me how I feel,
That’s a consideration.

If we stop and talk awhile,
That’s a conversation.

If we understand each other,
That’s communication.

If we argue, scream and fight,
That’s an altercation.

If later we apologize,
That’s reconciliation.

If we help each other home,
That’s cooperation.

And all these ations added up
Make civilization.

(And If I say this is a wonderful poem,
Is that exaggeration?)