

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

FINAL

Dramatic Duologue
Born in 2014-2015

Choice A
Time Limit:
3 minutes

The Case of Humpty Dumpty

By Simon Mawdsley

(Inside a court room in the city of Yolkingham, witnesses are giving evidence in the case of Humpty Dumpty. They are trying to discover why Humpty Dumpty had a great fall from the wall and who, if anyone, is responsible. The Counsel for the Prosecution has just called the next witness.)

PROSECUTION: Do you swear...

WITNESS: Yeah, sometimes — when I lost my temper. Like the other day I hit my thumb with a hammer, and I said...

PROSECUTION: No, no, no. I mean, do you swear by Delia's Cookery Book that the eggidence... sorry, the evidence you shall give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

WITNESS: Oh that? Yeah, right...

PROSECUTION: Thank you. You are a builder, yes?

WITNESS: That is correct. I am a builder.

PROSECUTION: A builder of walls?

WITNESS: Walls, houses, swimming pools. You name it, I'll build it!

PROSECUTION: Yes, well, it is one wall in particular that we are interested in today. The Yolkingham City wall.

WITNESS: Right — yeah, that was one of mine.

PROSECUTION: You built it?

WITNESS: With my own hands.

PROSECUTION: And could you tell the court who hired you to build it?

WITNESS: Yes, I could. Definitely. Yes.

PROSECUTION: Well?

WITNESS: Well what?

PROSECUTION: Who was it?

WITNESS: Oh, it was the council, wasn't it?

PROSECUTION: Yolkingham City council?

WITNESS: Of course. What other council's going to hire me to build a wall around

Yolkingham? What's the matter with them?

PROSECUTION: How long did it take to build the wall?

WITNESS: Ooh, let me see now. *(Counting on his fingers)* A week.

PROSECUTION: A week?

WITNESS: Well, not including Sundays, obviously.

PROSECUTION: You built a high wall around the entire city in six days?

WITNESS: We don't hang about mate.

PROSECUTION: We?

WITNESS: Yeah. Me and my crack team, Duck and Goose.

PROSECUTION: Duck and Goose? An independent inspection has found that many of the bricks on top of the wall were laid without mortar.

WITNESS: What? Oh, er, yeah, we ran out, didn't we.

PROSECUTION: Why didn't you get some more?

WITNESS: Didn't have time. The council wanted the wall up quick — so that's what we did.

PROSECUTION: Did you — at any time — inform the council that the bricks on top of the wall were laid without mortar?

WITNESS: Not exactly, no.

PROSECUTION: So the council would not have known this?

WITNESS: Not unless they were stupid enough to climb up there.

PROSECUTION: No further questions.

- The End-

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

FINAL

Dramatic Duologue
Born in 2014-2015

Choice B
Time Limit:
3 minutes

Invisible Friends

By Alan Ayckbourn

(WALT is GARY's father. They are both at home. Gary is reading the paper and Walt is watching TV. Also in the room are Gary's sisters. Gary shakes a few Cornflakes into his bowl. Walt shakes a few Krispies into his. The girls managed to pull a prank as they switch the bowls over to create confusion.)

GARY: *(Waking up to the situation)* Hey. I got Krispies here.

WALT: Yes, we know. We know.

GARY: I wanted Cornflakes.

WALT: Yes, I know. Here, have these.

GARY: Ta.

WALT: Give me yours.

GARY: Right.

(They exchanged bowls.)

WALT: Hey, you'd better give me your packet and all.

GARY: No, these are fine. I wanted Cornflakes.

WALT: I know you did. But those aren't Cornflakes, those are Krispies.

GARY: Are they? It says Cornflakes on the packet.

WALT: Yes, I know it says Cornflakes on the packet, but they're not Cornflakes, they're Krispies. Now give them to me. You can have these.

(He gives Gary the Krispies packet and takes the Cornflakes from him.)

GARY: I don't want these, I wanted Cornflakes.

WALT: Those are Cornflakes.

GARY: Are they? It says Krispies on the packet.

WALT: I know. But they are not Krispies, they're Cornflakes. The Cornflakes are in the Krispies packet and the Krispies are in the Cornflakes packet. Those are not Krispies, those are Cornflakes. And these are not Cornflakes, these are Krispies. Look.

(He shakes some Cornflakes on to his Krispies.)

GARY: Those are Cornflakes.

WALT: Cornflakes? How did they get in there?
GARY: It's a Cornflakes packet. *(He shakes some Krispies over his Cornflakes.)*
WALT: Those are Krispies, those are. How did they get in there?
GARY: In where?
WALT: In the Krispies packet? What are the Krispies doing in the Krispies packet?
GARY: I don't know. Is that not right, then?
WALT: *(To Joy, who asks if she can help)*
No, you can't.
(To Joy, who asks if he wants her to scrape Cornflakes off the Krispies)
No, I don't.
GARY: *(Offering the Krispies packet)* Do you want these back?
WALT: *(Angrily)* No, I don't, I don't want anything. I'll just have some toast. I'm going to write and complain about this.

- The End-