

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

Monologue
Born in 2010-2011

Choice A
Time Limit:
4 minutes

It's Here Somewhere

By Joanne Watkinson

(ABBI tries to find a letter from school that she needs to give her mum. It is lost in the depths of her messy bedroom.)

ABBI: I know it's here somewhere, I can remember putting it away in a safe place. I just can't remember which safe place. What do you mean it's a mess? Mum I've told you I like to organise my room in a certain way.

This pile here is my dancing stuff, this here is school stuff, over here is weekend stuff, under there is a box of memories and in this corner is a neat pile of clothes that I've worn but haven't quite had time to transfer to the laundry basket. This over here is a pile of things I might need in an emergency and finally on top of this set of drawers is a pile I've labelled miscellaneous, yes that's right it's basically everything else I own.

Mum please don't nag I'll find it, why do schools send important letters out via the child anyway? I know the teachers are old but surely they've figured out how to use email. Maybe it's in my memory box.

Aww Mum look at this, my first ever painting, move over Picasso, and look at this valentine card, I know you and Dad sent it but made me feel like I was very popular at the time, which let's face it is important in nursery school.

Mum look do you remember when I sewed this teddy bear and gave it to you for Christmas? One eye was a cool look for bears in those days.

Oh Wow! Mum here is Gran's wedding ring, and you thought it was lost! You see I may not be able to locate a dumb letter from my form tutor but I bet you're glad I'm a hoarder now.

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King Midas and his touch of Gold

Traditional, an adapter version

(There was once a king in Greece called MIDAS who was greedy to become the richest man on earth. The gods decided to grant his wish but with disastrous consequences. In this scene, Midas is sitting on a golden throne in his garden of statues. He is suddenly aware that he is no longer alone. He looks up and notices Jason, a young boy from the village, who has broken into the palace to find out if the rumours he has heard about his king are true.)

MIDAS: Hello! What are you doing here in my private garden? Snooping, I suppose? I'm surprised that you got past my guards. Looking at me like that - mouth open! Have you never seen a king before? Well... no, you probably haven't, certainly not such a rich one!

Let me show you around. This is my palace...my swimming pool. My, er, statues. Yes, I do have a lot and yes, they are all gold, solid gold! My robes are gold thread, my throne is gold, my goblet is gold.

Shall I let you into a secret? I love making money... lots of it. My own little empire! One day, I have made a wish, I wished that everything I touched would turn to gold. The gods heard me and granted my wish. Look! It was a copper...but now... it's gold! This flower - see, it's now gold leaf! I can't even pick up bread or cheese because if I did it would turn to gold.

No don't back away. Are you getting nervous? Afraid that I might accidentally touch you? This statue of a dog - well it wasn't a statue, it was Hellen, my favourite hound.

This is the worst of all, my daughter, Zoe, she was so beautiful and full of life. I just touched her like this and she turned to gold! No more laughter... no more songs.

Oh dear! don't be afraid! Just be careful what you wish for...Hmmmm too late, I fear. I seem to have gained another statue.