



CONTEMPORARY MONOLOGUES FOR YOUNG ACTORS



*For my mother, who told me that anything is possible,
and for my father, who made me believe it.*

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INTRODUCTION

Generally speaking, the monologues in this book were written for actors and acting students aged 7-14, as well as for the teachers, directors and acting coaches who work with them. Some of the monologues may work better for actors toward the lower end of that age range, while others may work better for actors toward the upper end. There is no particular order to the monologues presented, but more of the monologues toward the beginning of the book may work better for slightly younger actors, while more of the later monologues may work better for slightly older actors.

Whether you're a teacher, actor or student – and whether your goal is to instruct, learn, perform or audition – as you browse through this book, simply choose for yourself or your students whatever monologues feel right.

A QUICK WORD FOR ACTORS

These monologues can be used for auditions, as short performance pieces, or simply to sharpen your acting skills. When choosing your monologues, keep in mind that all of the performance pieces in this book were created to work equally well for male actors and female actors. The monologues you choose should simply be a matter of selecting the pieces that move you, amuse you, or that you feel a connection with. Others may present a character or emotion you want to explore.

Once you've chosen a monologue, if it makes you feel more comfortable with the material to change a word or a name, go ahead and do it. Think of the monologues as tools and yourself as the artist. Whatever helps you deliver the best possible performance is what you should be doing.

Similarly, you'll find that some of the monologues have small performance suggestions before the monologue itself, or some minor stage directions within the body of the monologue. Acting is about bringing your own interpretation to the words – so feel free to ignore the stage directions and bring the monologue to life in your own way.

Finally, always take the time to think about what each character in each monologue you perform is really saying and really feeling. As long as you find the heart of the moment, the heart of the character and, most importantly, your own heart, you'll never go far wrong.

SHARING

Some people think I don't like sharing, but that isn't true at all. I love sharing. I mean, what's not to love about being able to go up to someone and say, "Hey, can I have some of that candy?" And then they give you some! Or, "Can I ride your bike for a while?" And then you get to ride their bike! Sharing is awesome. Sometimes you have to be careful, though. Like if someone comes up to me and says, "Can I have one of your cookies?" Well, if I gave them a cookie, then I might not have any cookies left to share with other people and that would be, like, the opposite of sharing. So I have to say no. Because sharing is really important.

SCOUT

Before we moved here, we had this big dog named Scout. Mom always said he was a total mutt, but I think he was also part collie. And maybe part golden retriever. But he was definitely at least half mutt. Scout was supposed to be the whole family's dog, but he was really mine. I mean, after school, it was me he would be waiting for. And when anyone threw his ball, I'm the one he always brought it back to. And at night, it was always my bed he slept in. But before we moved here, my Mom found out we weren't allowed to have any pets, so we had to give him away to my cousins. I don't really talk about it, but sometimes I dream about Scout. He's got his ball in his mouth and he's looking for me. And I'm saying, "Here, Scout. I'm right here." But he doesn't hear me, and he can't see me, and I'm saying, "I'm right here. Scout. I'm right here." And then, I don't know, I guess I wake up . . . I don't know if Scout dreams about *me*.

VOTE

Hi, my name is Terry Taylor and you should vote for me for class president, because of all the really amazing ideas I have to make all of our lives here at Garfield a better place. Like, OK, for instance, this one idea that I have that there should be a table out in the hallway all the time filled with free cookies and cupcakes and brownies and maybe those amazing frittata bites that they sell at Mr. Chocho's down on the corner. I mean, if everyone likes frittata bites or even knows what they are. They're really good. This would improve school morale and also keep everyone's energy up for better studying.

Another amazing idea I have is to completely get rid of grades, mostly because I think they're elitist and also because even someone who fails is actually a successful person in their own way. So there's that.

And finally, I would like to introduce a by-law or something, that would make it socially not acceptable for anyone to be called a geek or maybe shoved into a locker or have their lunch money stolen just because they maybe wear glasses or, for instance, are running for class president. So there's that. Thank you . . . Terry Taylor. Vote for Terry Taylor . . . Thank you.

UNIVERSE

I saw on the Discovery Channel where a long time ago, before the beginning of time, the entire universe was as small as the head of a pin. And everything was inside it. Stars, planets, houses, people, cars – other pins. Everything in the universe. And then one day, this head of a pin just exploded and everything came out at like a million degrees hot and million miles an hour. And all the stars and planets and people and cars just kept getting bigger and bigger, until they filled up all of space and all of time, just burning and melting and spinning. And as soon as I heard that, I knew that I was just like that pin, and that one day I'm gonna explode too. And when I do, fire and stars and whole worlds will come out of me and they'll be a million degrees hot and they'll travel so far and so fast that I'll never have to come back here again. Not ever . . . Not ever.

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