

Summer Assignment for Theatre

THIS IS A REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT for ALL incoming 6th Graders!

ASSIGNMENT - Prepare for your Theatre AUDITION in September
You will be required to do the following:

1. **SLATE** (Briefly introduce yourself and your piece)
 - a. State your first and last name
 - b. State the name of the character you are playing and the full title of the play or musical for your monologue or song.
2. **AUDITION** - Perform a one minute monologue **OR** a musical theatre song. (Either choice must be memorized and performance ready.)

MONOLOGUE

If you choose a monologue, you will memorize and perform a one-minute piece. Try to choose a character you can relate to, and you must know to whom your character is speaking and why. Please choose from the list of “monologue choices” on the following pages.

SONG

Instead of a monologue, you may choose to memorize and perform 16 bars (about one minute) of a song. Musical theater songs are **preferred**, however pop and R&B songs are acceptable. Songs will be performed “a cappella” (without music). Try to choose a song performed by a relatable character, and you must know to whom your character is singing and why.

MONOLOGUE CHOICES

(Students may choose from any of the monologues below, regardless if there is an assigned gender. We are an advocate of “blind casting” and gender neutrality as it pertains to character choice.)

1. Fences

Character: Cory (Teenage boy)

Description: Pittsburgh, PA; 1957; Backyard of their home.

Cory is finally standing up to his father.

Fences is a play written by August Wilson (Teachhub/Sora), and was also made into a movie (PG-13) starring Denzel Washington.

You talking about what you did for me... what'd you ever give me? You ain't never gave me nothing! You ain't never done nothing but hold me back. Afraid I was gonna be better than you. All you ever did was try and make me scared of you. I used to tremble every time you called my name. Every time I heard your footsteps in the house. Wondering all the time... what's Papa gonna say if I do this?... What's he gonna say if I do that?... What's Papa gonna say if I turn on the radio? And Mama, too... she tries... but she's scared of you. I don't know how she stand you... after what you did to her. What you gonna do... give me a whupping? You can't whup me no more. You're too old. You're just an old man.

2. A Little Princess

Character: Sara Crewe (age 11-12)

Description: England; Early 1900s.

Sara is trying to comfort her classmate whose mother has died.

This is a play that is based on the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett (teachhub/Sora). It was also made into a movie (1995, rated G).

I don't have a mother either. She's in heaven with my baby sister. But that doesn't mean I can't talk to her. I talk to her all the time. I tell her everything and I know she hears me because... because that's what angels do. My mom is an angel and yours is too. With beautiful satin wings, a silk dress, and a crown of baby rosebuds, and they all live together in a castle. And when they want to go anywhere they just whistle, like this...(whistles) and a cloud swoops down to the front gate and picks them up. They ride through the air, over the moon and through the stars, until they are hovering right above us. That's how they can look down and make sure we're alright. And sometimes they even send messages. Of course, you can't hear them with all the noise you were making. But don't worry, they'll always try again, just in case you missed them.

3. Newsies

Character: Jack Kelly (age 15-16)

Description: New York City; 1899.

Jack, a Newsie (kid who sells newspapers), is trying to convince the other Newsies to join the strike against the big newspaper companies.

Newsies is a Broadway Musical and was also made as a movie musical. Both can be found on Disney+ and/or other streaming platforms.

Hey, you listen fellas. I know someone's put you up to this. They probably paid you some extra money too. Well it ain't right. Pulitzer thinks we are gutter rats with no respect for nothing, including each other. Is that who we are? We stab each other in the back? But if we stand together, we change the whole game. And it ain't just about us. All across this city, there are boys and girls who oughta just be out playin', or goin' to school and instead they are slavin' to support themselves and their folks! So fellas, for the sake of all the kids in every sweatshop and factory and slaughterhouse in this town, I beg of ya...throw down ya papers. Join the strike!

4. Parenthood

Character: Amber (or Drew)

Description: They are confronting their deadbeat dad who deserted the family many years ago, and is trying to come back into their lives.

Parenthood was a TV-PG television drama that ran from 2010-2015.

It's like basically we're strangers. So, stop calling me sweetheart. I don't even know you. You don't know anything about me. You can't just waltz in here after all this time and just like, buy us a burger, and everything's just going to be fine again. You know? And I guess it works on everybody but me. I guess I'm the only person that has a problem with it. I'm sorry, but I can't forget the fact that you didn't come to my birthdays when you promised that you would. And you didn't take me out all the times that you promised that you would. And you were not there for me when I really needed you. And so I have trouble believing that you've changed, because I've heard it all before. I look at you, and I just see the same loser who let me down.

5. Irreconcilable Differences

Character: Casey (gender neutral)

Description: Casey is suing her parents for "emancipation".

I'm just a kid, and I don't know what I'm doing sometimes. But I think you should know better when you're all grown up. I think you should know how to act, and how to treat people. And I think if you once loved someone enough to marry them, you should at least be nice to them, even if you don't love 'em any more. And I think if you have a child, you should treat that child like a human being and not like a pet. Not like you treat your dog or somethin'. You know, when you have a dog sometimes you forget he's there, and then when you get lonely suddenly you remember him, and you remember how cute he is and stuff, and you kiss him a lot, but then the next day when you're busy again you don't notice him. That's how I've been treated for the past four years, and you don't treat your kid like your dog. It's not right.

6. You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown

Character: Schroeder

Description: Schroeder has finally had enough, and decides to confront Lucy about her bad behavior.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown is a Broadway musical that is based on the Peanuts comic strip. The script can be found at the following link:

<https://www.everythingmusicals.com/files/youre-a-good-man-charlie-brown-revival---libretto.pdf>

I'm sorry to have to say it to your face, Lucy, but it's true. You're a very crabby person. I know your crabbiness has probably become so natural to you now that you're not even aware when you're being crabby, but it's true just the same. You're a very crabby person and you're crabby to just about everyone you meet. Now I hope you don't mind my saying this, Lucy, and I hope you'll take it in the spirit that it's meant. I think we should be very open to any opportunity to learn more about ourselves. I think Socrates was very right when he said that one of the first rules for anyone in life is 'KNOW THYSELF'. Well, I guess I've said about enough. I hope I haven't offended you or anything.

7. Charlie & The Chocolate Factory

Character: Violet

Description: Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir is a golden ticket to adventure. It is a book, a musical, and two different movies.

I'm a gum chewer normally, but when I heard about these ticket things of Mr. Wonka's, I laid off the gum and switched to candy bars in the hope of striking it lucky. Now, of course, I'm right back on gum. I just adore gum. I can't do without it. I munch it all day long except for a few minutes at mealtimes when I take it out and stick it behind my ear for safekeeping. To tell you the honest truth, I simply wouldn't feel comfortable if I didn't have that little wedge of gum to chew on every minute of the day, I really wouldn't. It may interest you to know that this piece of gum I'm chewing right at this moment is one I've been working on for over three months solid. That's a record, that is. It's beaten the record held by my best friend, Miss Cornelia Prinzmetal