

NAME: _____

MEMORIZATION TIPS & TOOLS

1. *Write It Down:*

Write your monologue down multiple times. Handwriting is the most effective way to do this; typing has been shown to not be nearly as helpful. Once you have written it down at least 3 times, you can continue to help yourself by creating a “first letter script”. In other words, write down just the first letter of each word and see if you can remember what each word is. This exercise helps your memory develop faster.

2. *Exaggerate the Text:*

You can start by exaggerating the pronunciation of the last word of each line. Then, progress the exercise by moving from the exaggerated pronunciation of the last word into an exaggerated pronunciation of the first word of the next line. By doing this exercise, you are building the muscle memory of the mouth; you should find that as you begin to repeat the text, your mouth will “remember” moving from one word to the next. It will eventually enable you to say the lines without thinking about them.

3. *Building Up the Text:*

This exercise requires high levels of concentration and a commitment to the exercise. If you have difficulty with either of these ideas, you may not want to attempt it. Inconsistency with this exercise will cause it to be ineffective. Lay on the floor in a relaxed but open position. Your diaphragm should not be obstructed in any way, as this exercise is based in your breathing. Inhale deeply. As you exhale, say a part of the line. Repeat with every exhale. (Example: “(inhale) To (inhale) To be (inhale) To be or (inhale) To be or not (inhale) To be or not to (inhale) To be or not to be (inhale) To be or not to be, that (inhale) To be or not to be, that is (inhale) To be or not to be, that is the (inhale) To be or not to be, that is the question.” The goal of this exercise is to help the words of the line connect and make sense to you because it forces you to listen to the line as a whole.

4. *Word List:*

After reviewing the piece as a whole, choose one word from each line. Make a list of the words you have selected. The list itself should make sense in some way. (For example, it could be alphabetical, or could move from small words to large words; etc.) Use the list to help you track the next line. Eventually, the awareness of the important words should help prompt the line without too much effort.

5. *Dance the Monologue:*

If you are a naturally physical (or *kinesthetic*) person, then this will be a helpful exercise for you. You do not want to use choreographed movement of any kind for this exercise. The goal is to create *spontaneous* movement that comes from the sound of each word. Start in a neutral position, and as you pronounce each word, explore where the emphasized sounds sit in the body. (For example, where does the “t” sound in “to” sit?) You are looking to understand how the sound *feels*. Remember that this is an individual

experience of sound – there is no “right” or “wrong” movement. You should spend a minute or two playing with each word. Connect consonant and vowel sounds. There are 3 steps to this exercise: 1) “dance” and speak the word; 2) “dance” the word without speaking it; 3) stand still and speak the word.

6. *Draw the Text:*

Draw a picture of the subject of your text. Drawing a picture can help stimulate the memory.

7. *Place It In a Room:*

Take literal or metaphorical images of objects or ideas present in your text and place them throughout your house or the room. As you practice your monologue, move throughout your house or the room to each image. Feel free to place the images wherever you would like. This is a great exercise if you are more of a visual learner. Eventually, the images will serve as prompts to remind you of where you are in the monologue.

8. *Record It:*

Use the voice memo app or any recording app on your device or computer to record your monologue and play it back to you. You may even want to press play on the device right when you go to sleep, as some actors find they wake up remembering it in the morning.

9. *Whisper In My Ear:*

This is a partner exercise. Give your monologue to your partner and sit next to each other, but facing opposite directions. Have your partner whisper the text into your ear. Your partner should make sure they are whispering into your ear and not off to the side.

10. *Memorization Apps:*

There’s an app for that! You can use a memorization app, such as Scene Partner, to help you memorize your lines. (<https://www.scenepartnerapp.com/>) Memorization apps are especially helpful if you’re worried about “cheating” while trying to practice your memorization. (Just be aware that there may be a cost involved, depending on the app, so check with your parents first before adding one to your device!)