

A Monday Morning Spark of Inspiration . . .

May 4, 2026

FULL TEXT LINKS:

[I'm Just Digging a Hole . . .](#) by Bradley Walton

Heuer Publishing 2010 978-1600035296

Humorous Duo for Any Gender(s)

MN, ND and SD State Qualifier

Misc. Comedy

PG-13 High School Appropriate

[Complete Title: I'm Just Digging a Hole in the Woods at 2 am . . . No Reason. Why do You Ask?] [Author notes casting is gender flexible] It's 2 a.m. so naturally, Halling is curious as to why her classmate Andrews is digging a hole when she encounters him in the woods on a cold January night. Of course, Andrews eventually has to ask what she is doing in the middle of the woods at 2 a.m. herself? The tension between them mounts hysterically as they both try to pass off their bizarre actions as casually as possible. Is one of them up to no good?

[Replay](#) by Mark Scharf

Heuer Publishing 2011

N/A

Dramatic Interp for a Male

NIETOC

Relationships

PG-13 High School Appropriate

Every night at 4:30 a.m., Josh awakens to find Leann silently watching and waiting for another chance to replay how a promising relationship ended stillborn in pride, misunderstanding and miscommunication. As the play unfolds, we come to question if Leann's visits are real or if they are only replaying in Josh's head. Replay is about the journey from regret and remorse to redemption in our shared struggle to connect to another human being before it's too late.

[The Bee Thing](#) by Maggie Damken

Strange Horizons.com 2020 On-line Transcript

Serious Prose for a Female

2025 National Qualifier – MS

Misc. Drama

PG-13 High School Appropriate

A recent college grad moves back to her small hometown after her boyfriend, Daniel, dumps her because, well, her head has literally turned into a beehive. Working at her family's farmer's market, she spends her days dodging nosy locals, missing Daniel, and trying to make sense of the buzzing, crawling chaos inside her head. The story mixes heartbreak with dark humor and a bit of magical realism, capturing how it feels to be stuck -- too weird for your old life, too lost for a new one. When she finally breaks down and the bees burst out, she's left with a rare moment of silence. Later, finding an old photo of her great-grandfather, who also had a beehive for a head, she starts to see her pain as part of something bigger, maybe even something survivable.

9 Things I Would Like to Tell Every Teenage Girl by Melissa Newman-Evans

Melissa Newman-Evans 2015 On-line Transcript

Serious Poetry for a Female

2023 National Qualifier – MS

Women's Issues

PG-13 - High School Appropriate

[Performed at the 2015 National Poetry Slam in Oakland, CA] A fierce, empowering message about surviving and resisting a world that constantly undermines young women. Through nine direct pieces of advice, the speaker urges girls to reclaim their voices, reject societal pressures that reduce them to appearance, and define themselves on their own terms. It emphasizes self-expression, resilience, and solidarity, stressing that all girls—regardless of differences—must support one another against shared struggles and dangers. Ultimately, the poem reframes womanhood not as something to fear, but as a hard-earned symbol of survival and strength in the face of a world that often tries to diminish them.

What I Learned from 100 Days of Rejection by Jia Jiang

Ted Talks.com May 2015 On-line Transcript

Serious Declamation for Any Gender(s)

2023 and 2025 National Qualifier – MS; CA and IL State Qualifier

Social Commentary

PG – Middle School Appropriate

Jia Jiang adventures boldly into a territory so many of us fear: rejection. By seeking out rejection for 100 days -- from asking a stranger to borrow \$100 to requesting a "burger refill" at a restaurant -- Jiang desensitized himself to the pain and shame that rejection often brings and, in the process, discovered that simply asking for what you want can open up possibilities where you expect to find dead ends.

VAULT OF CUTTINGS:

April 2026 Extemp Questions have been uploaded to the [VAULT OF CUTTINGS](#) and added to the EXTEMP TOPIC GENERATOR

Daddy's Little Girl by Jason Sheets

Tichenor Publishing Jan 2001 978-0742117013

Stored in Folder(s): [Dramatic Interp / Male \(Multi-Character\)](#)

[Serious Prose / Male \(Multi-Character\)](#)

2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2023 NQ; NIETOC; CO, IL, KS and MN State Qualifier – DI

2005, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2025 National Qualifier; KS and MN State Qualifier – PR

Cancer

PG-Middle School Appropriate

CUTTING STORED IN THE VAULT: [Found in Turning Points, Pgs 153-157] A father walks into a school, ready to confront a bully, only to discover he's up against something far more unforgiving: leukemia. In this selection, a devoted father is forced to navigate the unimaginable. He balances humor and heartbreak as he supports his daughter through the fight of her life. From awkward parenting moments and lighthearted songs to hospital rooms filled with uncertainty, he clings to normalcy while Katie's quiet strength begins to outshine his fear. But as treatments fade and time runs short, he's left grasping for control in a world that offers none. This is a story about resilience, the unbreakable bond between a

father and daughter, and the courage to keep searching for “blue skies” even in life’s darkest moments.

The 1619 Project: Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renee Watson

Kokila Nov 2021 978-0593307359

Stored in Folder(s): Serious Poetry / Any Gender(s)

IL State Qualifier; MN State Qualifier

African American

PG-Middle School Appropriate

CUTTING STORED IN THE VAULT: A young student receives a family tree assignment in school: “Who Are You?” But can only trace her lineage back three generations. She asks her Grandma for some help and learns that for African Americans, the answer is something far more powerful than a simple family tree. Their identity is more than a litany of specific names or places. It is understanding the strength these people said to be “born on the water” needed to survive and how that drive has been passed down through generations. African American history is not just a story of loss, but a story of resistance (no matter how small) and pride. A story that begins 400 years ago, in 1619, when Black people were stolen and brought to the US by white slave traders. A story that begins not in shame, but in courage.

9 Parts of Desire by Heather Raffo

Dramatists Play Service Jan 2006 978-0822220978

Stored in Folder(s): Dramatic Interp / Female (Multi-Character)

2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 National Qualifier; NIETOC; CA and MN State Qualifier

Muslim

PG-13 High School Appropriate

CUTTING STORED IN THE VAULT: On February 13, 1991, the US military fired laser-guided “smart” bombs into a large civilian shelter in al-Amiriyya, a residential neighborhood in Baghdad. The bombing killed 408 civilians. The invasion of Iraq and the liberation of Kuwait had begun. But it would be 12 years before Saddam Hussein is removed from power and executed for crimes against humanity. Iraq is a world that exists far beyond what we see on our television screens. And since the early 1990’s the women of Iraq have borne often silent witness to all that has unfolded in the Middle East. Today their silence is broken by the voices of Umm Ghada, the caretaker of the Amiriyya shelter, now a museum to honor the dead; a doctor who has returned to her homeland to serve her people; and Huda, an elderly political rebel who fled Iraq during the time of Saddam Hussein. It is said that history is written by the victor. But perhaps, just perhaps, history is a compilation of many realities. Heather Raffo gives voice to the diverse population of Iraqi women, struggling to survive . . . struggling to be heard.

Blown Sideways Through Life by Claudia Shear

Dell Publishing Company, Inc April 1996 978-0385313155

Stored in Folder(s): Humorous Interp / Female (Monologue)

Humorous Prose / Female (Narrator Only)

2001, 2006 and 2016 National Qualifier; 2024 National Qualifier – MS – HI

2003, 2004, 2006 and 2010 National Qualifier – PR

Misc. Comedy

PG-13 High School Appropriate

CUTTING STORED IN THE VAULT: If life were a stable career path, Claudia Shear didn’t just miss the memo; she used it to light a cigarette on her way out of yet another job. Ricocheting between gigs like a human pinball, she hustles through it all with a world-class eye-roll and absolutely no illusion of

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job security. And then . . . she found waitressing. The glamorous arena where “May I take your order, madam?” really means “Please don’t emotionally unravel over the soup of the day.” It’s a chaotic parade of low-wage survival jobs where dignity is optional, sanity is negotiable, and every shift feels like a social experiment. But don’t worry, customers -- Claudia’s got a few tips to help you behave like a decent human while the waiters and waitresses talk about you behind your back. A thought-provoking and funny glimpse of the nameless workers who make the world go round.

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