

Weekly Update - 9/2/2025

FULL TEXT LINKS:

[Tell Me How It Ends](#) by Valeria Luiselli

Coffee House Press April 2017 978-1566894951

Serious Duo for a F/F Pair

NIETOC

Immigration

PG-13 High School Appropriate

[Follow the prompts to download the .pdf file] A damning confrontation between the American dream and the reality of undocumented children seeking a new life in the US. Structured around the forty questions Luiselli translates and asks undocumented Latin American children facing deportation, Tell Me How It Ends humanizes these young migrants and highlights the contradiction between the idea of America as a fiction for immigrants and the reality of racism and fear—both here and back home. Luiselli effectively humanizes the plights of those who have been demonized or who have been reduced to faceless numbers . . . A powerful call to action and to empathy.

[Family Secrets](#) by Philip Vassalo

Heuer Publishing 2006 N/A

Dramatic Interp for Any Gender(s)

Misc. Drama

PG-13 High School Appropriate

A 43-year-old hospital patient, Carol is on her death bed. She refuses to sign a do-not-resuscitate order. 21-year-old Richard, a convict on death row refuses to confess his sins to a prison chaplain. 19-year-old, Becky, captured by Iraqi soldiers, refuses to videotape a speech denouncing America. Each is unaware of the others' presence and of their relationship to each other. Through their monologues, we see the limitations of language, the richness of emotional energy in the face of death, and the nature of family.

[In Love](#) by Amy Bloom

Random House Mar 2022 978-0593243947

Dramatic Interp or Serious Prose for a Female

NIETOC – DI

MN State Qualifier - PROSE

Alzheimers

PG-13 High School Appropriate

[Follow the prompts to download the .pdf file] Amy's husband, Brian retired early from a new job he loved; withdrew from close friendships; talked mostly about the past. Suddenly, it seemed there was a glass wall between them, and their long walks and talks stopped. Their world was altered forever when an MRI confirmed Brian had Alzheimer's disease. Forced to confront the impact on his future, Brian is determined to die on his feet, not live on his knees. Brian and Amy make the difficult decision to go to Dignitas, an organization based in Switzerland that empowers a person to end their own life with dignity and peace. In this memoir, Bloom sheds light on a part of life we often shy away from discussing -- its ending.

A Nite with Beau Willie Brown by Ntozake Shange

Scribner Sept 1987 978-0684843261

Dramatic Interp or Serious Poetry for a Female

2024 National Qualifier – DI

Domestic Abuse

PG-13 High School Appropriate

[Found in For Colored Girls Who Consider Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf, told by the Lady in Red, Pgs 78-83] A psychotic, alcoholic returning Vietnam veteran named Beau Willie Brown abuses his girlfriend Crystal and finally drops their two children from the window of their fifth-floor apartment because he thinks she is cheating on him and refuses to marry him. She says: "i stood by beau in the window/ with naomi reachin for me/ & kwame screamin mommy mommy from the fifth story/ but i cd only whisper/ & he dropped em."

Ignorance: The Only Real Disability

(A Good Place to Start Research)

Serious Oratory for Any Gender(s)

2019 National Qualifier

Social Commentary

PG-13 High School Appropriate

"Has there ever been a time in the world's history when people were more sure of their opinions?" asks Jim Ferrell of the Arbing Institute. "We become set in our opinions precisely because we have lost sight of the fact that they are merely opinions. . . our culture is suffering from what one might call 'opinion creep'—the elevation of unsupported thoughts to the status of opinions and opinions to convictions." We don't know how to have civil disagreements anymore. We fail to recognize that having a thought doesn't make our thinking the truth. Ferrell writes, "We tend to have convictions about many things and to have opinions about almost everything else. We blind ourselves to the enormity of our ignorance."

VAULT OF CUTTINGS:

August 2025 Extemp Topics have been uploaded to the [VAULT OF CUTTINGS](#) and added to the EXTEMP TOPIC GENERATOR

Gwen and Gwen by Nancy Kiefer

Samuel French, Inc. April 2017 978-0573630408

Stored in Folder(s): Serious Duo / F/F Pair (Multi-Character)

Dramatic Interp / Female (Multi-Character)

2010, 2023 and 2024 National Qualifier; NIETOC; IL, IN and MN State Qualifier – DUO

MI State Qualifier - DI

Mental Illness

PG-13 - High School

CUTTING STORED IN THE VAULT: Explores the relationship between a woman, recovering from a psychotic breakdown, and her alter ego. Gwen struggles to rebuild her shattered life, instigated by her husband's infidelity and subsequent departure, while confronting her suppressed demons incarnate as Gwen II. As she attempts to hold down a job, deal with her disconnected, preoccupied mother and gain

enough composure to reclaim her children, we witness Gwen weighing the consequences of her past choices and battling for her very life.

40 Questions from Tell Me How It Ends by Valeria Luiselli

Harper's Magazine Feb 2017

ISSN: 2169-7612

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

Serious Prose / Any Gender(s) (Multi-Character)

2023 National Qualifier – MS

Immigration

PG-13 - High School Appropriate

CUTTING STORED IN THE VAULT: A damning confrontation between the American dream and the reality of undocumented children seeking a new life in the US. Structured around the forty questions Luiselli translates and asks undocumented Latin American children facing deportation, Tell Me How It Ends humanizes these young migrants and highlights the contradiction between the idea of America as a fiction for immigrants and the reality of racism and fear—both here and back home. Luiselli effectively humanizes the plights of those who have been demonized or who have been reduced to faceless numbers . . . A powerful call to action and to empathy.

Harry by Rosemary Timperley

Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Oct 1983

978-0374251314

Stored in Folder(s): Serious Prose / Any Gender(s) (Multi-Character)

2024 National Qualifier – MS

Supernatural

PG – Middle School Appropriate

CUTTING STORED IN THE VAULT: [Found in Roald Dahl's Book of Ghost Stories, Pgs 18-37] A mother finds herself terrified of her daughter's new imaginary friend named Harry. At first, it irritates Mrs. James to see 5-year-old Christine chatter away to someone who is not there when she plays by the rose bush in the yard. However, she becomes more distressed when Christine becomes increasingly attached to Harry. Mrs. James's husband and the family doctor tell her this is normal behavior for children, especially when they haven't met many other kids yet, but she decides to start an investigation into the past. As she learns more, she realizes that Harry is most certainly not just an imaginary friend.

From the Afterlife by Andrea Gibson

Various

Various

Various

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

Death

PG-13 High School Appropriate

CUTTING STORED IN THE VAULT: [Contains Tincture and Love Letter from the Afterlife] Andrea Gibson, a celebrated poet and performance artist who through their verse explored gender identity, politics and their four-year battle with terminal ovarian cancer, died on July 14, 2025, at age 49. Tributes poured in from friends, fans and fellow poets who said Gibson's words had changed their lives — and, in some cases, saved them. People terminal illnesses said Gibson made them less afraid of death by reminding them that we never really leave the ones we love. Since the announcement of Gibson's death, the poem has become a spiritual farewell to readers, listeners, and loved ones. "Dying is the opposite of leaving," -- not as absence, but as presence magnified.