

Monologue Choices: Girls

PICNIC, by William Inge

MILLIE: Madge, how do you talk to boys? How do you think of things to say? I think he's a big show off. You should have seen him this morning on the high diving board. He did real graceful swan dives and a two and a half gainer, and a back flip... the kids stood around clapping. He just ate it up. And he was braggin' all afternoon about how he used to be a deep-sea diver off Catalina Island. And he says he used to make hundreds of dollars doin' parachute jumps out of a balloon. Do you believe it? Madge, I think he's... er... girl crazy, too. Alan took us into the Hi Ho for cokes and there was a gang of girls in the back booth – Juanita Badger and her gang. When they saw him, they started giggling and tee-heeing and saying all sorts of crazy things. Then Juanita Badger comes up to me and whispers, “I think he's the cutest thing I ever saw.” Is he Madge? Madge, do you think he'll like me? I don't really care. I just wonder.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE, by Tennessee Williams

LAURA: Mom, I can't do anything— No, Mom, please! I have to say this. I can't go outside these walls. There's just too much pain! I can feel everyone staring at me—staring at this. (*She points to the braced leg.*) The noise it makes, it's just so loud! That's why I dropped out of high school! I felt everyone's eyes staring at me, heard all the giggles they tried to suppress as I clomped and limped down the hall. Especially when I would enter the choir room! Jim would never want to be around me again. Sure, we talked sometimes, but he wouldn't want to be around me any more than those few occasions—not around the limping girl who makes such a racket! Nobody would want to be near me. So I tuned out from the rest of the world before it could cause me any more pain than I have already suffered. And it seems that whatever crippled my leg— (*Amanda opens her mouth as if about to interject.*) —yes, Mom, you might as well admit that I'm crippled!—has crippled the rest of my being throughout time. It seems I just got worse and worse at school. And then at business college, in that confined typing room, that quick clacking of keyboards surrounded me as I stumbled and fat-fingered all the letters. It felt as if the professor was breathing down my neck, silently mocking me as I continued to fail. Until finally, all that pressure poured out of me—and into a toilet. Mom, secluded from the world in this home listening to phonograph records and dusting my glass collection—this is where I belong! I fail everywhere else in the outside world. Here, there's nothing to fail at! I'll never succeed at finding a husband or a job, so I might as well give up trying now and just be content in my bubble with at least having no additional failure for the rest of my life! I can't see Jim! (*Tears are welling in her eyes.*) It would only result in the ultimate failure—rejection from the only person I have ever loved! Mom, I can't! Just have dinner without me. Please, Mom.

TOMORROW'S WISH, by Wade Bradford

JUNIPER: I kissed a boy once. At least I tried. I don't know if it counts if they don't kiss back. But I tried to kiss a boy and it almost worked. Most of the time Grandma and I don't get to see folks much, but we go into town. Sometimes. And Grandma says I just have to be careful to mind my manners, and Grandma says I'm real good at being careful, but sometimes I get so bored in that little town. Only one video store. Only two churches. And the park only has two swings and a pool that never gets filled up anymore. But in our little town there is a boy named Samuel. He's a bag-boy at the grocery store. He does it just right and never squishes the eggs. And he has red hair and green eyes. And... (Laughs at the memory.) Freckles all over his face! And Samuel is so nice. So nice to me and Gram. He would always smile and always say "thank you" and "your welcome." If he says, "Have a nice day," then you do. That's how good he is at his job. And I always wanted... I always wanted to be close to him, or to talk to him, without Gram around. And one day when Grandma had a really bad cold I got to go to the store all by myself. And I bought some oyster crackers and some medicine. Then I got to watch Samuel all by myself. Watch him do his bag boy job. I just stared and stared, trying to count all of those handsome freckles. Then, he asked if there was anything else I wanted. I just whispered "Yes." (Pauses, closes eyes in remembrance.) And then I grabbed him by the ears and Mmmmmmm! (Pretends she's grabbing and kissing him.) That was my first kiss. It was the most romantic moment of my life. Until the manager pulled me off of him.