

HSPVA THEATRE DEPARTMENT

Sample Completed Arc

**Please feel free to copy and paste the section below [between brackets], and replace everything underlined with your own information.*

*[Student Name and #: Wanda Jones, #32 Date Due: 1/1/10 Date Turned in: 1/1/10
Play: The Cocktail Hour Playwright: A.R. Guerney Character: Ann
Project Name: Sample Arc
This sample applies to the arc of the character in the monologue. 1st up

(Grading Key: 3 = Absolutely 2 = Pretty Much 1 = Slightly) Total: __ out of __]

On another attachment, you will find a copy of the original scene and a copy of the monologue developed from the scene. I made one side of Ann's conversation into a monologue.

There is an implied subtext/counterpoint to this monologue that Ann never really loved her children's father, that there was another man. The audience and the children begin to infer from what she is saying that she gave herself away to be their mother and lost her lover.

Beat Before: Her grown children are harassing Ann about having neglected them, not being present to them when they were children.

Start: She feels defensive, attacked.

- 1) "I was writing a book." – defending herself/stopping the attack/slap
- 2) She watches their shock and hears her author/son ask, "What happened to it?"
- 3) "I burned it." – Tactic – Make them feel guilty.
- 4) She hears John ask. "Why?"
- 5) "I couldn't get it right." – Self-deprecating, confused, caught in covering up the truth, wants them to let her leave the room
- 6) "Then we had Jigger..." – Martyrdom, feel sorry for me, but I was brave
- 7) She hears them ask what the book was about.
- 8) "I won't tell." Loving the attention. Tactic – wants them to coax her

9) "I'll give a brief summary." Flirting

10) "a woman" - testing the waters

11) "a governess" - nervous; are we really going to talk about what really happened in my life?

12) She hears them compare her to the governess in *Jane Eyre*, who fell in love with her employer. (An implied allusion to their father)

13) "falls in love with someone else" Counterpoint - painful memory, loss of the potential joy of her life - Tactic - behaving enthusiastically, feigning courage. Wants to shame them. Wants them to feel sorry for her.

14) "a very attractive groom, where she keeps her horse" - bridled sexuality

15) "she rushes into the flames...gets thoroughly burned" - they have gotten caught up in the story together, building the excitement and throws cold water on all of them - enjoying the power

Turning Point: 16) "And guess what? She is even more beautiful than before." - a glorious, loving moment for her as she loves them, glad she had them.

16) "You can see why I burned it?" - Wants to be loved and understood, forgiven for having neglected them

17) She sees them realizing the truth and that they see her in a whole new light.

18) "It's silly" - Trying to milk their loving and feeling sorry for her. Again, wanting to be coaxed.

19) They ask about the groom, and she tries to brush aside the question. "I can't remember." Starts to leave the room.

20) They corner her with the fact that the book was about her real life, and they suggest the groom represents another man in her life.

21) "I'm beginning to think I based him on your father." - Desperate sadness that her husband did not live his life as the kind of passionate man he was when she fell in love with him.

Finish: She feels cleansed, empowered, has the power, has shocked and subdued her grown children.