Playwriting Challenge #4: DIALOGUE

1. Make a puppet:

You'll need:
   - Wooden spoons
   - Tape
   - Paper
   - Scissors
   - Markers (or pens)

Step 1: Draw some eyes

Step 2: Tape them onto the wooden spoon

Step 3: You have a puppet. You can get more involved if you're feeling creative. Add the rest of the face, or hair. You can even cut out a picture from a magazine, and tape it right onto your spoon. #thatsapuppet

2. With your puppets try acting out the following scene:

A: Did you bring it?
B: Why?
A: Don’t you ever listen to me?
B: Of course I do.
A is the main character or **protagonist**.
B is a helper/ friend of the protagonist. B is helping the protagonist get what they want.

Imagine that “it” is a prop, something the character can hold in their hand. 
Imagine that “it” is something your character wants more than anything else in the world.

**“It” is your character’s objective.**

Try it again, this time:
A is the main character or **protagonist**.
B is the enemy, foe or **antagonist**. The antagonist is blocking, or causing obstacles, making it difficult for the protagonist to get what they want.

As you write dialogue for your play, ask **“What does this character want or need more than anything?”** What is the obstacle that blocks this character from getting what they need?

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**3. I Love You (Don’t make it obvious!)**

In this scene, which is between two characters, one must tell the other that they love them without saying the words “I love you.”

*Show it, don’t tell it. Don’t use the words “I love you” at all. Don’t make it obvious.*

- Decide what type of love is involved: - paternal, romantic, friendship, etc.
- Expressing love should be difficult due to some outer or inner conflict (it’s always hard to say I love you, especially for the first time)
- The other character may or may not return the sentiment
- This is a chance to really get creative. People express love in all kinds of different ways!
- Remember, the scene needs to have a beginning, middle and end

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4. Use an opening line from the list below to begin a scene in your play.

1. Well, aren’t you going to congratulate me?
2. Did you hear that?
3. This is most definitely the result of a curse.
4. Get a grip.
5. I can fix this, I am determined to fix this.
6. I have something important to tell you.
7. Why are you hiding in the bathroom?
8. Sir, you dropped your wallet.
9. I would do anything for a peanut butter dipped chocolate bar right now.
10. It’s now or never.

*Remember: Show don’t tell. And keep in mind what your character wants. Your protagonist’s objective should drive the scene.*

If you want to record any of the exercises with your puppet spoons, share them using the hashtag #cmtmplaywritingchallenge

*Good Luck Playwrights!*