

Girls: 11 - 13 years

## Suggestion One

### Invisible Friends Alan Ayckbourn

As her family are preoccupied, no one seems to want to hear LUCY's news that she has got a place on her school swimming team. So she revives her childhood fantasy friend, Zara. In this scene, LUCY has just been ignored by her brother. As she enters her own room she introduces the audience to her invisible friend, Zara.

LUCY

You may have heard my mum talking about my invisible friend. DO you remember? Well, that's my invisible friend, Zara. (*Introducing Zara*) This is Zara. I want you to meet Zara. Zara, say hallo. That's it. Will you say hallo to Zara, my invisible friend. I invented Zara - oh, years ago - when I was seven or eight. Just for fun. I think I was ill at that time and wasn't allowed to play with any of my real friends, so I made up Zara. She's my special friend that no one can see except me. Of course, I can't really see her either. Not really. Although sometimes I ... It's almost as if I could see her, sometimes. If I concentrate very hard it's like I can just glimpse her out of the corner of my eye. (*She is thoughtful for a moment*) Still. Anyway. I've kept Zara for years and years, Until they all started saying that I was much too old for that sort of thing and got worried and started talking about sending for a doctor. So then I didn't take her round with me quite so much after that. But she's still here. And when I feel really sad and depressed like I do today, then I sit and talk to Zara. Zara always understands. Zara always listens. She's special. Aren't you, Zara?

## Suggestion Two

### The Siege Adrian Mitchell

After the breakout of war, the people of the peaceful town of Arden become under siege by the forces of the province of Dower. In this scene a young girl, GABY, steps forward and talks directly to the audience, describing what life is like living in an air raid shelter.

**GABY**

I dunno if you've ever been in an air raid. Just in case you get caught in one, I'll tell you what to do. First, stick yourself down in a shelter. Best thing is to be in a cellar near home with friends and some family. Winter you go for months on end without ever taking off your clothes. You never see your own body. You know it's turning into something skinny and horrible. You want to forget about it. But it itches and it aches, just to remind you it's there. And of course, it smells. But you get used to your own smell and the smell of your friends and family. Smell a stranger a mile off. (*Sniffs, laughs*) There's a lot of boredom in air raids. You read a book, if you can get near enough the lamp. Maybe you play cards for a tin of sardines. And there's always somebody saying the same old stupid things ... (*All Clear Sounds*) Then the All Clear sounds. And there's always the same old argument: Do you pack up the blankets and the kids and go upstairs? Or stop in the cellar and wait for the next raid? Look, sometimes it's real fun down in the shelter. Yeah. And we all sing old Beatles songs and stuff. Right? But sometimes there's a kid missing and there's screaming outside and it feels like you're stuck down in hell and you know that hell is a cold dark place where little children die. (*Turns and walks away*)