

Girls: 14 - 16 years

Suggestion One

The Power of the Dog Ellen Dryden

LISA, a brilliant but difficult sixth former, is being encouraged to stay on at school by Vivien, her English teacher. In this scene, Vivien is waiting for LISA to show up for an extra tutorial. LISA shows up late as usual with the same old excuses.

LISA

Listen. I reckon you owe me ten quid. I went to see that *Midsummer Night's Dream*. It was rubbish! Helena was about thirty-five, kept chucking herself all over the place - tossing her hair back and flinging her arms about. You know - just like young people always do when we're in love. Nearly ruptured herself. She was about six inches shorter than Hermia as well, so she'd got these gross high heels and Hermia had to bend at the knees all through the quarrel scene. And the Mechanicals wandered about in the audience and talked to us. I hate that! And Peter Quince sat in the Stalls and shouted his lines from there. And the fairies all lived in cardboard boxes and had tattoos. Puck was a drug-pusher. And it went on for nearly four hours. I reckon ours was better. And I couldn't afford it! ... Hey and guess what! Theseus and Hypolita played Oberon and Titania! Isn't that original? Everybody liked it except me. I wanted to get up and kill them all. Bunch of no-hopers!

Suggestion Two

The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett (adapted for the theatre by Therese Kitchin)

Young Mary Lennox is sent to live in her uncle's house in Yorkshire where she is left in the charge of the Housekeeper, Mrs Medlock and MARTHA, a young servant girl. She feels sorry for Mary and encourages her to play in the grounds, and it is here that Mary discovers the locked up, walled garden. In this scene, she begs MARTHA to tell her the story of the garden and, reluctantly, MARTHA explains that it belonged to Mary's aunt, who died ten years ago.

MARTHA (Yorkshire)

Mrs Medlock says it's not to be talked about. Mrs Medlock says his troubles are nowt of his servants' business. Tha'lt get me into trouble ... I'll lose my place here, then what'll mother do ... If it weren't for garden - he wouldn't be as he is ... She made it her own - none of t'gardeners was ever let in ... Him an' her they looked after it themselves ... They'd shut t'door an' stay there for hours - laughin' an' talkin' ... as though it were a world of their own ... They planted roses - wild, climin' things - He built her a swing - an' she fashioned a seat in t'branch of old tree ... Even now I want to cry ... The bough broke an' she fell to the ground ... Mother says she was just a slip of a thing most likely teasin' him from up there in the tree ... She was hurt so bad that soon after she died ... If she hadn't been as she was - she might have got better ... There's lots of things that are not to be talked of in this place ... Anyway - that's what happened and he nearly went mad an' he's never recovered ... You mustn't tell Mrs Medlock what I've told you ... Promise ... An' now tha'lt be a good child an' not try to wander where tha's not meant to go. Tha's better of than some!