

Burnsville Speech Auditions

Reading # 1: Breaking News by Don Zolidis

OLIVIA: This is Olivia St. John doing a hard-hitting investigative series on... Pilates, which is about sculpting... and toning... I will be reporting my results...

(her phones rings.)

OLIVIA: Hello?

SHADOWY FIGURE: Olivia?

OLIVIA: Who is this?

SHADOWY FIGURE: I am a shadowy figure.

OLIVIA: What?

SHADOWY FIGURE: I've got a big story for you.

OLIVIA: What kind of story? .

SHADOWY FIGURE: About the truth. The truth of what's really happening at this school. OLIVIA: What truth?

SHADOWY FIGURE Meet me in boys' locker room after school and I'll tell you. OLIVIA: Oh come on.

SHADOWY FIGURE meet me behind the school. By the tree.

OLIVIA: Got it. Which tree?

(But it's too late. The SHADOWY FIGURE has hung up.)

SHADOWY FIGURE: Olivia?

OLIVIA: Ah! You really are a shadowy figure.

SHADOWY FIGURE: Everything I say is the truth. This is the beginning of the story – if you follow it, it might lead you all the way to the top. Here. *(Hands OLIVIA a manila envelope.)*

Reading #2:Proof by David Auburn

I lived with him. I spent my life with him. I fed him. Talked to him. Tried to listen when he talked. Talked to people who weren't there. Watched him shuffling around like a ghost. A very smelly ghost. He was filthy. I had to make sure he bathed. My own father.

After my mother died it was just me here. I tried to keep him happy no matter what idiotic project he was doing. He used to read all day. He kept demanding more and more books. I took them out of the library by the carload. We had hundreds upstairs. Then I realized he wasn't reading: he believed aliens were sending him messages through the Dewey decimal numbers on the library books. He was trying to work out the code.

Beautiful mathematics. The most elegant proofs, perfect proofs, proofs like music. Plus, fashion tips, knock-knock jokes – I mean it was nuts, OK? Later the writing phase: scribbling nineteen, twenty hours a day. I ordered him a case of notebooks and he used every one. I dropped out of school. I'm glad he's dead.

Reading #3: To One Coming North by Claude McKay

That silence again
a wall of feathers, and near
enough to block the
circuit of our time—
Adobe wall, roads of dust—
thirty two years
until the bones discoursed—
That's how long
I've dug into myself—
And the baby?
She is a promise—
ungraspable, mist—
Fuss or no fuss,
yearn, yearn, yearn.
Heart pounds, ears throb—
Will it ask the question
Tattooed on our skin?

Writing Sample # 1:

On a separate piece of paper, write a paragraph or two about a recent world event. You can choose to make it opinionated or not. Please include facts.

Writing Sample # 2:

On a separate piece of paper, write a paragraph or two about any topic that you want people to care about.