

Name_____ Date_____

Emulation Brainstorm: "Girl"

Jamaica Kincaid wrote "Girl" as a dramatic monologue (one person speaking in a dramatic mode) with one speaker **instructing, advising, and criticizing** an unnamed listener -- her daughter. The impact of the story is powerful because even though the daughter gets in a few lines, she is clearly not able to make her own voice/opinions heard -- she is almost silenced by the speaker's words. For this activity, you will practice developing a similar voice -- one that **instructs, advises, and criticizes** the listener. You will use this brainstorm again to write your own version of the story.

1. Make a list of identity categories that describe who you are (5 minimum).

Examples: boy/girl, older or younger brother/sister, African-American, Jewish, student, athlete, musician, writer, artist, etc.

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2. From this list, which category(ies) do you feel is most often labeled, advised, even criticized by others?

Name_____ Date_____

3. Now, complete the back, working as you do to create a specific voice and character -- one who is giving the monologue to a listener. Think about: who is speaking to the person you chose? What would they say?

Directions: You are now going to brainstorm for your own dramatic monologue, using Jamaica Kincaid's style as a model. Brainstorm at least 5 ideas for each category, except the last one. **Use complete sentences for each bullet point.**

The speaker is telling the listener how to be a _____

Direct commands:

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Detailed Instructions/ "how-to":

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Wisdom/superstition:

Name_____ Date_____

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What is the “bombshell” warning -- what is the worst thing the listener can be, in the mind of the speaker? You will insert this in various places in your story, just as Kincaid does in hers.

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What are some possible responses from the listener? Questions, responses, comments, arguments?

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