

# Line-Learning Ideas

## FOR DRAMA CLUB

### Overview

Memorizing your part in a play may sound challenging, but you can do it!

- **Spend time with your script every school night** right after you finish your homework. Don't wait until the deadline! Start memorizing as soon as you receive your part.
- **Work on your lines for about 10 minutes a day.** Make sure you don't spend all your time reviewing the parts you know—keep moving forward.
- **Learn your lines word-for word.** Other actors are listening to you to know when it's their turn to speak. If you don't say a line properly, a fellow performer may miss their part.
- **Once you know all of your lines,** review them at least twice a week until showtime.

### Steps to Memorizing Your Part

1. **Highlight your part.** Start by marking all of your lines with a colored marker (or circle them with a pencil). Include any lines that you speak as part of a group.
2. **Silently read the script.** Begin by reading the entire script to get the basic story in your head. After that, focus only on the sections that involve your character. Read them over and over. Don't just read your own lines, go over the lines that come right before yours, too. These are called your *cues*.
3. **Test yourself.** Cover one of your lines with a sheet of paper and read the cue right before it. Can you recite your line from memory without moving the paper? If so, great! If not, uncover your line and practice it out loud several times in a row.



Now, re-cover the line and test yourself. Can you say it correctly this time? Focusing on a page or two at a time, repeat this process with the entire script.

4. **Find someone to help you run lines.** Ask a friend or family member to hold your script and read your cues aloud. Then try to speak your lines in the right places without peeking at the script. *Note to helpers: When you run lines with an actor, never read the stage directions (words in parentheses) out loud.*
5. **Review the hard parts.** When you run lines with a helper, you'll probably discover there are some lines that still need work. Ask your helper to mark the parts you struggle with. Now, repeat steps 3 and 4 for the lines you missed. When you can rattle off every one of your lines as soon as your helper gives you the cue, with no prompting and no delay, you can feel confident that you know your part.
6. **Don't stop reviewing.** Just because you know your lines doesn't mean your work is over. Keep reviewing the script to stay sharp until the final performance!

## Other Line-Learning Ideas

- **Act out your part while you practice.** Try saying your lines in fresh ways. Use different movements, facial expressions, and emotions.
- **Write out your lines.** Copy your lines in writing several times each. This method is especially helpful with big chunks of dialogue.
- **Use a voice recorder.** Record yourself speaking all of your cues and lines. When you play back the recording, press the pause button after each cue. Try to say your line from memory. Now, hit play to see if you got the line right.
- **Get together with other actors.** If you have free time at school, run lines with your fellow performers! You can also practice from home using Facetime or a similar app.
- **Use the "Call and Response" technique.** Parents, if your young actor has emerging literacy skills, they may need extra help. Try reading each of your child's line aloud to them, breaking it into sections if necessary (that's the "call"). Then have your child repeat the line back to you (which is the "response"). Keep practicing until they know their lines thoroughly. We realize this can be tedious, but it's often the best way for kids who are still working on reading fluency to master their parts.

