

Annamaria Bellezza

SCENE FROM A PLAY

Read the scene and then:

- 1) decide who the two characters are and where the scene is taking place.
- 2) make biographies of the two characters: everything you can think of about them and their lives, (physical descriptions, personality, passions, issues, dreams and aspiration, strengths and weaknesses, social status, education...)
- 3) Analyze the scene answering the following questions for each character:
 - a) What is the character literally doing? (i.e.: yelling at his brother while pacing up and down)
 - b) What is the intention/action of the character? (i.e.: to demand an apology)
 - c) What tools is the character using? (i.e.: to humiliate, to belittle...)
 - d) What is the obstacle? (i.e.: the brother has a physical disability)
 - e) What are the stakes? What happens if you don't succeed? (i.e.: you will get fired)
 - f) What is that action like to me? It's "as if" ... (i.e.: it's as if I found out my partner was seeing somebody else and I was trying to get him to admit the truth and apologize)
- 4) decide which *status* each character is going to play (*power* relationship between the two)
- 5) memorize the scene – you are free to choose the English or the Italian version
- 6) play the scene -- you can play the scene in either English or Italian or both (one speaks in English and the other one speaks in Italian while the intentions/actions remain the same!

Definition of 'action': the physical pursuance of a specific goal. It has to be specific, it cannot presuppose any physically or emotional state, and has to find the test in the other person. For example, "demanding an apology" is specific enough and you know you have succeeded when the other person apologizes.

SCENE

The Italian version is in *Italics*.

B--What are you doing here? *Cosa fa qui?*

Do you have something to say to me? *Vuole dirmi qualcosa?*

A—No

B—Why are you here then? *E allora perchè è qui?*

A—What was Diego's mother doing here? *Cosa faceva qui la madre di Diego?*

B—Nothing. We were talking. *Niente, parlavamo.*

A—About? *Di cosa?*

B—What do you think? *Che pensa lei?*

A—You tell me. *Me lo dica lei.*

B—I think you know very well. *Penso che lo sappia benissimo.*

A—Are you accusing me? *Mi sta forse accusando?*

B—What do you think? *Lei che dice?*

A—Your insinuations are absurd. *Le sue insinuazioni sono assurde.*

B—Really? *Davvero?*

A—Compassion. I call it compassion. *Compassione. Si chiama compassione.*

B—The commission will decide. *La commissione deciderà.*

A—You know, I feel sorry for you. You won't succeed in what you are trying to do. Ah sì?...
Provo solo pena per lei. Non ci riuscirà mai.

B—We'll see about that. *Vedremo.*

A—And this fantasy of yours...*E questa sua fantasia...*

B—I know what I saw. *So quello che ho visto.*

A—Prove it. *Lo provi.*