

# MONOLOGUE 1: STAGE MANAGER (Act III – Cemetery Reflection)

## Suggested Roles:

- Stage Manager
- Mr. Webb, Dr. Gibbs
- Simon Stimson, ensemble narrators
- Grounded or emotionally resonant adult roles

**About This Monologue:** This quiet, reflective passage comes near the end of the play, as the Stage Manager contemplates the impermanence of life and the ways people often fail to appreciate their time on earth. It invites stillness, emotional subtlety, and compassion—showing the Stage Manager not just as an observer, but as a figure of deep human understanding.

## Tips:

- Let the emotion live just beneath the surface—no need to force it.
- Speak with the simplicity and calm of someone who has seen many lives come and go.
- Focus on connection, not performance—this moment is for the living and the dead.

**Thank you for auditioning.** You're welcome to upload a second monologue if you'd like to be considered for a broader range of roles.

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STAGE MANAGER: Yes, an awful lot of sorrow has sort of quieted down up here. People just wild with grief have brought their relatives up to this hill. We all know how it is...and then time... and sunny days... and rainy days...’n snow...We’re all glad they’re in a beautiful place and we’re coming up here ourselves when our fit’s over. Now there are some things we all know, but we don’t take’em out and look at’em very often. We all know that something is eternal. And it ain’t houses and it ain’t names and it ain’t earth, and it aint’ even the stars...everybody knows in their bones that something is eternal, and that something has to do with human beings. All the greatest people ever lived have been telling us that for five thousand

years and yet you'd be surprised how people are always losing hold of it. There's something way down deep that's eternal about every human being. (pause) You know as well as I do that the dead don't stay interested in us living people for very long. Gradually, gradually, they lose hold of the earth... and the ambitions they had ... and the pleasures they had ...and the things they suffered... and the people they loved. They get weaned away from earth—that's the way I put it, --weaned away. And they stay here while the earth part of 'em burns away, burns out: and all that time they slowly get indifferent to what's goin' on in Grover's Corners. They're waitin'. They're waitin' for something that they feel is comin'. Something important and great. Aren't they waitin' for the eternal part in them to come out clear? Some of the things they're going to say maybe'll hurt your feelings--- that's the way it is; mother'n daughter...husband 'n wife...enemy 'n enemy...money 'n 'miser...all those terribly important things kid of grow pale around here.