VOICES FROM THE ATTIC

LEAD ACTOR CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET | MSHSL ONE-ACT PREPARATION

Student: _____ **Character:** _____

Goal: Develop believable, emotionally complex characters capable of delivering a Superior performance.

1. Know Your Character

Who is my character beyond what happens to them? What do they want most?

Identify three personality traits and one personal goal.

2. Find the Conflict

What is my character fighting for, and what prevents them from getting it?

Consider external obstacles and internal fears.

3. Show, Don’t Tell

Which emotional moment can I communicate through a look, movement, or physical action instead of words?

Identify one specific moment in the script.

4. Create Emotional Variety

Where can I show humor, affection, frustration, hope, or determination instead of sadness?

Avoid playing every scene with the same emotional intensity.

5. Make Every Silence Active

When my character is silent, what are they thinking, deciding, resisting, or trying to hide?

Choose a silence and describe the thought underneath it.

6. Make the Suitcase Meaningful

What does my character's suitcase represent? How does my relationship with it change?

For Nate, consider what handling someone else's suitcase means.

7. Identify My Defining Moment

What is the single moment the audience should remember about my character?

Explain how you will make it believable without exaggerating.

8. Strengthen the Ensemble

How does my character's story contribute to the larger message of 427 lives?

Think about how your choices support the other actors and final tableau.

Director's expectation: Bring one physical acting choice, one meaningful silence, and one moment of emotional contrast to character-development rehearsal.