



project.org

STUDENT HANDOUT

GREEN LEVEL
MORE SUPPORT

Voice, Body, Story

Grades 5–8 • Theater

ADMIT ONE

NAME

DATE

CLASS

Your character: You are a 14-year-old who has just arrived in Harlem, New York, after a long train ride from Georgia with your family. It is 1925. You have never seen a city this big. You can hear jazz music coming from somewhere down the street. You wrote a letter home last night.

YOUR MONOLOGUE

Write your first-person speech

Use the sentence starters to help you write a 5–8 sentence monologue. You will speak as this character.

“My name is _____, and I just arrived in Harlem.”

“Back home in Georgia, everything was _____.”

“When I stepped off the train, the first thing I noticed was _____.”

“I heard music — it sounded like _____.”

“My mother said _____.”

“What scares me is _____.”

“But what I’m hoping for is _____.”

ADD YOUR OWN LINES

PRACTICE YOUR PERFORMANCE

Two things to try

O1

Stand up straight

When you perform, your character is arriving somewhere new and hoping for something. Try standing tall — even if the character is nervous. What does that feel like?

O2

Make one gesture

At the most important moment in your monologue — pick one gesture: point somewhere, hold your arms wide, or press your hands together. Practice it until it feels natural.

REFLECTION

1. What was the hardest part of writing or performing this monologue?

2. What did you learn about what it felt like to arrive in Harlem that you couldn't learn just from reading about it?

3. What does your character hope for? Is that the same as what real people who came to Harlem hoped for?

MINI MUSEUM CONNECTION

The exhibition includes the sound of jazz playing in Harlem in the 1920s. Imagine you're your character — hearing that sound for the first time after arriving on the train. What do you feel?

minimuseumproject.org/exhibitions/harlem-renaissance

SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY

Perform your monologue for someone at home. After, ask them: *"Does this story remind you of anything in our family's history?"*