



THINGS TO PREPARE

Please prepare the following work for the beginning of formal classes on 9th October 2023 – ready to share with the class:

- **HEAD TO HEART**

Learn, for presentation, a short piece of writing conveying ideas with which you strongly identify; these may be political, religious or philosophical.

The task is to present someone else's ideas or feelings as if they are your own.

We don't use "character" in this exercise – you're being you, not someone else!

The aim is to connect the head to the heart. It should be a piece that stirs you, that resonates with something you care deeply about. We'll be looking at how you communicate ideas that come from someone else's head (the Writer's) into your head, then go on to penetrate your heart and then the heart of your audience – your "end user".

The writing should be structured. A poem or a political speech is an ideal example. It should not be "verbatim" (unstructured recorded voice transcribed) **nor should it be written by you.**

You will need to learn this text "by heart".

Maximum length 45 seconds.

It is very important that we stick within the time frame so we get to see everyone in the time available.

- **TWO SONNETS**

Learn TWO of Shakespeare's 14 line sonnets which resonate with you emotionally.

You just need to **understand** what you're saying and care about it.

These need to be learned ready for the start of classes – it's only 28 lines in total!

- **GET TO KNOW THE PLAYS**

Our early classes will assume a **working knowledge** of the following plays:

***The Cherry Orchard* by Chekhov translated by Elisaveta Fen .**

We work from the translation used in the OLD Penguin classic version by Fen – an old copy from E-bay or Abe Books will probably be this version. **We all need to be working from the same translation** so ensure you get the right one.

And

***Macbeth* by Shakespeare**

Please bring HARD copies with you. You should not only have read these, you need to be familiar with them!

- **A MYTH OR STORY TO TELL**

In the early weeks we have regular storytelling sessions. We ask you to come prepared to tell/share a story or myth.

This might be a story you were told in childhood...it might come from your place, country or culture of origin...or from a culture that fascinates you...

They might be Cornish folk tales, Nigerian creation myths...tales of Baba Yaga...or Indigenous stories of wolf, bear or crocodile. Pretty much anything you enjoy and would enjoy sharing.

They may come from an oral tradition...or – if they're short enough - you can read them from a book...illustrated books are fun.

If you're fascinated by a Disney film or such perhaps you could **do some research on the original tale** on which it's based and share that?

Note these are **short stories that you are sharing - 5 minutes long is ideal.**

Also importantly they are **NOT for 'performance' but for story telling**

- **WATCH & LISTEN**

See watching/listening/reading lists on HOW TO PREPARE

- **BRING THESE**

Having these where you'll be living ready to bring in on the relevant days

- Any **instruments** you play (where practical!)
- Something to **draw/paint with and on!**
- Your **"tactile object"** as written in the equipment list.
- **A journal in which you're going to write by hand** every Tuesday: your "Tuesday Journal". This should be a specific journal for the work we do on a Tuesday - not your regular note book.

If you have any pressing questions regarding this work, please email me directly on

brooksa@essex.ac.uk