



Read a Scene from the Play

Distribute the following scene from Love to groups of three students. Have them decide who will read which character, then read it aloud with each other. Since the characters are narrating their own story, guide your students to experiment with how they might add action as they read/perform the scene.

OSLO: I'm seven years old and I'm wearing a Transformers t-shirt and painted gumboots that Mum made me decorate in a Childhood Empowerment Workshop . And I'm standing on the beach, and so's Mum, and so's Dad. And I've never been allowed out on the boat before, overnight, but now I'm seven and Dad reckons that's old enough, and Mum's not sure, and Dad says:

DAD: What say we flip a coin for it? If it falls heads, then I'll take all three of us out for a catch. And if it's tails, then he can head home in the car with you.

OSLO: And Mum agrees and Dad flicks the coin and it spins round and round and round a hundred, a thousand, times in the air. And then – pap – it lands in the sand, next to Dad's big black fishing boots. And he says:

DAD: You pick it up, Oz. It's your destiny, not mine.

OSLO: And I do. And it's heads!

The family set to sea.

RUTHY: We went out all that day, and overnight as well, and the next morning. And you and I uncoiled the nets and threw them off the back of the boat, and your dad gunned the engine and bounced us over the choppy waves.

OSLO: And when it got dark, he dropped the anchor, and I helped him with the winch, and then we sat drinking tea together in the cabin, just the three of us, and I fell asleep in a tie-dye blanket Mum made in her Indonesian Appreciation Community Course.

RUTHY: And I gave you a kiss goodnight, and then your dad did too, and he leant in close... and he gave you the coin.

OSLO: Then he left and I lay there, listening to them laughing as they packed the iceboxes, and turning the coin over and over in my hands – 'heads, heads, heads, heads'. Ah!

RUTHY: It was a trick coin, one with no tails. Only heads. So your dad knew all along we were coming with him.

OSLO: And you too I reckon. You were trickers like that sometimes. But then... he never asked me for the coin back.

And now whenever I have a big choice to make, I use the coin – I think about my two options. And then I think about the one I want the most, and make that one heads. And then I flick it – and it lands right.

RUTHY: 'Cause I reckon most times when someone's deciding something, they really know the answer already, in their heart.

OSLO: You and Dad always said that at least. And I agree with pretty much everything they say.