

Monologue Mania!

“Dodgeball” from *Ups and Downs*

By Rebecca Wright

In the monologue below, you can perform the same monologue with two completely different emotions and give it two entirely different meanings. The different feelings are spelled out for you in the two scenarios. Just by altering your tone of voice, your facial expression, and your body language, it’s amazing how much the mood of the piece can change while saying the exact same words!

SCENARIO ONE: Playful

You are excited to find out that dodgeball has not been outlawed at your school. You can’t wait to throw a couple of balls at your friends—and enemies.

SCENARIO TWO: Worried

You are shocked and worried to see that your gym teacher’s plans for the day include playing dodgeball. Wasn’t that outlawed a long time ago? How can anyone let students throw things at each other on purpose? Don’t they know someone can get hurt?

* * *

STUDENT:

I guess it was just one of those urban legends that went around school, because I’m pretty sure I heard it from several people that dodgeball had been outlawed. So, you can imagine my surprise when I walked into gym class today and saw a bunch of red balls lined up on each side of the basketball court. I just knew it couldn’t be real. Doesn’t “outlawed” mean “not allowed”? As in, if you play it, you’ll be breaking the law? Does that mean that if we get caught, we’re all going to be in trouble? Or will it be just the teacher?

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“Dodgeball”

(continued)

I mean, it is her class after all. Surely, she’s the one they will handcuff and drag off to jail for endangering us poor students. *(Laughs.)* I’m just kidding about the handcuff thing, but surely she will be in deep trouble. I never thought I would ever play dodgeball. It’s something my brother told me about years ago when he was in elementary school. How the goal is to be the last one standing, to never get hit by a ball. How the balls are flying everywhere, and you have to basically be a ninja to avoid getting hit. My brother says he always won, but I seriously doubt that. He trips over his own two feet! Him a ninja? Highly doubtful. Besides, he’s the one who told me how much it hurt to get hit by a ball. If he won all the time, he wouldn’t know that! He probably exaggerated that, too. It can’t hurt that bad, can it? Whoever came up with such a game? Throwing things to hit someone on purpose and not even get in trouble for it? Genius, right?!