

## December, 1993 - Victoria Sullivan, English

A dim, empty space. A kind of Beckettian empty lot, maybe an abandoned parking garage. Two shapeless creatures of indeterminate gender struggle towards each other in the thick air.

Creature 1: Not exactly teaching tips –

Creature 2: No... ?

Creature 1: Not exactly...

Creature 2: What then?

Creature 1: Something else...something other...

Creature 2: Ahh...

Creature 1: Something about life.

Creature 2: Ahh...

Creature 1: Yes, about life, and. ..

Creature 2: And... ?

Creature 1: See if you go, uh, if you go someplace, someplace other than usual. Like not where you usually go but, uh –

Creature 2: Someplace other –

Creature 1: Exactly.

Creature 2: And... ?

Creature .1: It's like a liberation. Like the air is different. You breathe the air and your brain comes alive in a new way. You say, wow, feel that air, smell it --and you do --you lift your head in another way. You breathe deeply. You walk around. Maybe it's NYU. Maybe it's walking down Broadway around 8th Street, and you're going to a class --like any class, or a summer seminar --but it's not so much the class, that class. It could be any class. It's the cells in your brain –

Creature 2: I see. ..

Creature 1: Do you?

Creature 2: You're not dead.

Creature 1: Exactly.

Creature 2: (SUDDENLY ANXIOUS) But that's not a tip. Not a teaching tip.

Creature 1: I know.

Creature 2: It won't do. No one can use it. (BEGINS TO MUTTER TO SELF)  
You're up the creek. Lost. Can't do it. Better watch out.

Creature 1: But surely life --surely life --and breathing the air.--and. ..

Creature 2: (SUDDENLY ANGRY) It's not about life!! It's about teaching tips!

Creature 1: When I'm alive, I teach better.

Creature 2: (SURELY, BUT CALMING DOWN) That's not a tip.

Creature 1: Not exactly.

Creature 2: Just one tip. One real tip. Come on, you can do it.

Creature 1: How's this? If you want to take attendance, be sure not to forget  
your attendance book.

Creature 2: Not bad...

Creature 1: How about this? Blow your nose before class because if you blow it  
on your sleeve, it distracts the students.

Creature 2: Better...

Creature 1: I'm going to sleep now. If I can. I'm not a tip giver. I give up. They  
should all –

Creature 2: All what?

Creature 1: I forget. Something. Something about life. It was important. But I  
lost it. Not exactly a tip...

Creature 2: No... ?

Creature 1: Not exactly...

(THEY FREEZE IN PLACE, BENT OVER FROM THEIR HEAVY TEACHING DUTIES. AROUND THEM THE AIR SWIRLS UP GREYLY.)