

## Exercise

### Three-Phrase:

Beginning - Realizes lack of joy in her life

Middle - Hides feelings to please friends

End - Shows true feelings

### Premise:

New York City follows the story of SHE who is a middle-aged woman who lives alone, and has spent the day entertaining some out-of-town friends. These friends are a couple who come from SHE's hometown, and periodically come to visit their friend in the "big city". They have spent the day watching the Macy's Day Parade – and are now packing up their belongings to get ready to head back home. Despite the wonder-stricken eyes of her friends, SHE realizes that there is sadness in her own and to avoid ruining the trip, tries everything to avoid them finding out.

### OUTLINE:

SCENE 2; After the Macy's Day Parade, SHE enters the front door of her apartment exasperated, her face is low and tired, when her two friends enter from behind with loud voices and smiling faces. When she turns to them she smiles widely, when she turns away from them she makes sure she is always doing something with her hands. Straightening pillows, wiping counters, unpacking gifts and souvenirs they've bought at the Macy's Day Parade. SHE's friends finally sit and laugh at the amount of souvenirs they buy every time they visit. SHE doesn't stop cleaning and suggests that they go out again and do something exciting, maybe a bowling alley. The friends say okay but are not very excited to do so, instead they get up and ask if they can go somewhere nice for dinner. SHE agrees and suggests her favorite fancy restaurant a few blocks down, but tells them they should go ahead and she'll meet them there, and they leave. SHE pulls out her laptop, starts looking at Zillow for new apartments. She lets out a large sigh and closes her computer, putting her head in her hands.

SCENE 2

SETTING: SHE's apartment. A studio, well decorated, but it has a gray hue to it that feels unhappy.

SHE

What a day.

FRIEND 1

I can't believe we fit all of that in before 3!!

FRIEND 2

My jetlag is gone! Is yours gone??

FRIEND 1

Haha wait until you sit down!

*(SHE has sprung across the house, cleaning everything in sight.)*

FRIEND 1

Try it! Try to sit down! HA!

FRIEND 2

I don't want you to be right so I will, besides we need to look at the haul.

FRIEND 1

You mean the assortment of the same souvenirs we got last visit but in a different theme?

*(FRIEND 2 sits and sorts through the bags.)*

FRIEND 2

We needed Snoopy versions! It's not just the season that changes.

SHE

I think they're very cute. But why are we sitting? Why are we letting the jet lag get to us when we can stay up and run around some more?

(SHE is still moving all around the apartment, reshaping things.)

Why don't we go bowling? Maybe see a movie? How about dinner theater?! I want you to get the fall-snoopy version of every part of the city.

FRIEND 2

(Yawning)  
Oh no, it's happening.

FRIEND 1

Told ya.

FRIEND 2

(Standing up.)  
You're right, we should stay up, I don't know about bowling though. Maybe dinner without the theatre?

FRIEND 1

Yeah I definitely need something filling to make me even more tired.

FRIEND 2

Oh, stop.

SHE

Yeah! Dinner sounds great. Tell you what; Da Vanci's is right down the block, not too fancy, my favorite first date spot.

(To herself)

As if I have any more of those.

(To Friends)

Why don't we go there tonight?

FRIEND 1

Sounds great! We'll be the best first date you've ever had!

FRIEND 2

Let's get out of here!

SHE

You know what? You two go ahead, I'm gonna refresh my outfit, I've been in my work sweat since last night and Da Vinci's has only ever seen me on my A game.

FRIEND 1

Oh, well I hope we're not going to be a disappointment.

SHE

Of course not! That's not what I meant at all.

FRIEND 2

It's okay, babe, she just wants to freshen up to look as amazingly as we do.

SHE

Exactly. Plus you two can pretend you're young lovers again walking around the corner, it'll be great. I'll be right behind you.

FRIEND 1

Alright, we'll see you soon.

FRIEND 2

See ya!

SHE

Bye...

*(The room is quiet. SHE finally stops moving and sits. She reaches underneath her couch and pulls out a laptop. She sets the laptop on her lap, opens it, and pulls up Zillow in the search tab. Finding nothing, she lets out a large huff and shuts the laptop, putting her head into her hands. She lifts her head and sings.)*

SHE

FRIENDS COME TO VISIT THROUGH THE YEARS

CONVENIENT SIDE TRIPS AND VACATION TIMES  
 THEY COME TO WATCH WHILE THEIR DREAMS UNFOLD  
 AND MAGIC TAKES HOLD IN NEW YORK CITY

THEY COME TO SEE THE GREAT PARADE  
 FASHIONS AND FESTIVALS AND FINERY  
 BRAZEN AND BOLD - JUST LIKE THEY'VE BEEN TOLD  
 HOW QUICKLY THEY'RE SOLD ON NEW YORK CITY

THEY SAY HOW LUCKY I AM THAT I LIVE HERE  
 AND WHAT THEY WOULD GIVE JUST TO BE IN MY PLACE  
 KEEPING APACE  
 THEY'VE NEVER TRIED

THEY WILL NOT TAKE A MOMENT TO LOOK AT ME  
 TO SEE WHAT THIS TOWN DOES TO PEOPLE THEY'VE  
 KNOWN  
 SEE HOW I'VE GROWN  
 THE NEW GIRL IN TOWN GROWS OLD ALL ALONE  
 (SHE stands, pulls out her cell phone, dials a  
 number and sits again. Defeated.)

I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE  
 MAYBE SOME PLACE FOR JUST A HOLIDAY  
 I'D GO BACK HOME - BUT ALL OF MY FRIENDS  
 SAY I BELONG IN NEW YORK CITY

(SHE gets a phone call, stares at the  
 number, and answers.)

SHE

Hey, yeah, I'll be right there, sorry. You're right, it makes  
 sense that it's packed. Tell them you're with me, they'll  
 understand. See you soon. Bye.

(She hangs up.)

*Sung*

I NEED TO GO HOME - TO BE WITH MY FRIENDS I'M GETTING SO  
 OLD IN NEW YORK CITY