

**Over the River and through the Woods**  
**Monologues**

Please choose one of the following monologues to memorize and perform. Please have a knowledge of the character and attempt to portray the age with your voice and body.

**Boy Monologues:**

**Frank (80 years old):** When I was a little boy, every Christmas morning my father would carry me in his arms and take me to the vendors on the street, and he'd point to some tiny, dark toy, while I'd point to the biggest and most colorful, but my father would shake his head "no". And he did this again and again until he bought me some little gray toy that I barely wanted, and I'd start crying, and he'd carry me back to the house. I always resented him for that. And when I was fourteen, my father put me on a boat to American and said "Good-bye, that's where you're gonna live." I was fourteen. I hated him for that too. Eight years from the day he sent me away, I returned to my hometown so they could meet my new family. I took your mother in my arms and carried her outside and there they were – all the vendors, like they never left – And your mother pointed to the brightest and prettiest toy, and anyone she pointed at, I bought for her. And when we came back, my mother took one look and said: "That's what your father wished he could do! But we barely had enough to buy food for Christmas. That's why he had to send you away. So you could make a life for yourself he could never give you." I always thought my father was a bastard who wouldn't give me anything. Turns out- He was giving me all he had.

**Nunzio (70 years old):** Now Nicky, the first time I saw your grandmother, she was on a street corner – and she was waiting for a bus. Once I laid eyes on her - well, there was something about her - she was smiling, and I had never seen anything so amazing. She was so beautiful, you could drink her from a glass. Naturally, I couldn't speak to her – I just watched her get on the bus. But then I waited there, all day, till another bus returned her to that spot. And when she strolled home, I followed her and stood right underneath her window. I did this every night for a month – Every night for a month, I sang her this one song:

*(Sings.) "Yes sir, that's my baby  
No Sir, I don't mean maybe  
Yes sir, that's my baby now."*

The night she came down, I was still too nervous to say words to her, so I just kept singing.

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### Girl Monologues

**Emma (70 years old):** Nicky, I think you expect too much. You go looking for the perfect girl, so you find no one. You spend so much time worrying about so much – your job, where you live, what it means – You just expect too much. We never expected like you expected, Nicky. We were told a good life is when you find a husband and have kids and you put food on the table and send your kids to school and you don't die doing it – That's a good life. Then we went ahead and told our kids that they can have so much more – they can go to any school they want, have any job they want, meet wonderful people. And maybe that's the way it should be. And you already have much more than we ever had and we are so proud. But then you gotta go to a head doctor and the whole family moves away from each other. And we never had to do that. So did we make a better life for you? It's not a worse life. But better? Just different, maybe.

**Aida (70 years old):** Nicholas, do you know where I always wanted to go for years and years? Atlantic City. That's right, Nunz and Emma always came back with such stories, but yur grandfather, he would have no part of such a fancy place. But one day, I left him a plate in the icebox and I went. And you know what? I didn't like it. No, the whole time I was there, I was wishing I was back home, taking care of your grandfather. I had to take care of him, Nicholas. He needed me to – so much. How many people can get to be my age and can say that – that there was someone who needed them that much. I can say that Nicholas. I can't go. Not from here. Your grandfather built this house for me. How can I go? Stay for dinner. Please.