"I am…" – A Concordance Exercise

This quick exercise builds student confidence in performance. Use three or four cards each day so that all students have a chance to participate.

Preparation:

Using an online Shakespeare concordance (an easy one to navigate is www.it.usyd.edu.au/~matty/Shakespeare/test.html), type in the phrase "I am." You will get a hit list of all the sentences in Shakespeare's plays that contain this combination of words. Choose those that seem juiciest in dramatic impact or lend themselves to action. Some samples follow, but you will find many more among the 900+ possibilities.

Materials:

Index card with line typed out.

Procedure:

Give a card to a student who then "introduces" his or herself to the class using voice and movement appropriate to the line.

Examples:

I am the most unhappy woman living.
I am protector of the realm.
I am falsely accused by the villain.
I am not able to stand!
I am no loathsome leper; look on me.
I am not in the giving vein today.
I am prepared; here is my keen-edged sword.
I am unworthy to be Henry's wife.
I am with child, ye bloody homicides!
I am his brother, and I love him well.
I am thy king, and thou a false-heart traitor.
I am by birth a shepherd's daughter.
I am too young to be your father.
I am not mad; this hair I tear is mine.
I am as valiant as Hercules.
I am fortune's fool.
I am a most poor woman, and a stranger.
I am about to weep.
I am my father's heir and only son.
I am sure you both of you remember me.

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