**Performance Strategies for “The Gift”**

1. Create a single character for the narrator, a character outside the story itself. Start by asking the following questions of the story’s narrator:
   1. Who would know this information?
   2. Who would want to tell this story and why?
   3. What is the narrator’s attitude toward the story’s characters and events?

* In other words, you will invent a new character that plays the role of the narrator, while other members of your group play the role of characters in your performance section.

1. Choral Scripting: You will write a script of your performance section that will be based on the musicality and rhythm of language, like a piece of music, with the actors’ voices being the musical instruments. Repetition can be an important technique with this method of performance.
2. Images: Tell the story through a series of three visual images created with your bodies. You should give each image a title, which will serve to distinguish it from the others and tie it back to the story.
   1. For example: in image number one, two actors hug and a third actor (the narrator) says, “Love.” In image two, one actor leaves the embrace and hugs the narrator, while the narrator says, “infidelity,” In image three, the cheated on actor raises a hand high in the air as if holding a knife to be thrust into the back of the cheating actor. The narrator says, “Murder.”

Source: “Adaptation Strategies for Using Live Performance to Explore Narrative Fiction,” Matthew Spangler, Ph. D. San Jose State University