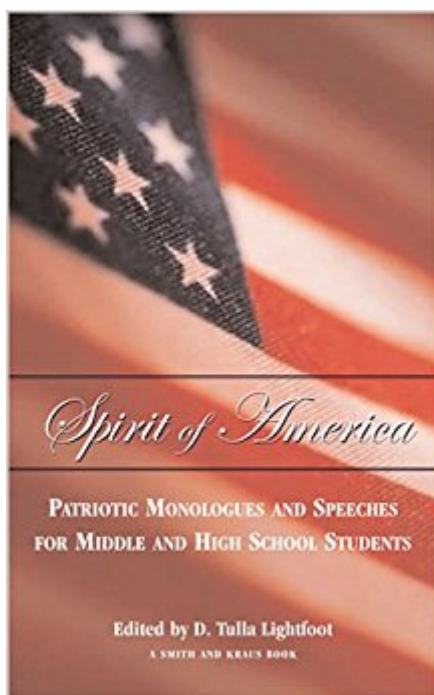


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Spirit Of America: Patriotic Monologues For Middle And High School Students (Young Actors Series)



Synopsis

Spirit of America is an inspiring collection of patriotic speeches and writings ideal for middle and high school speech and forensics classes, assemblies, and creative performance events. Some of the greatest personalities, from Plato to Ronald Reagan, speak passionately about the timeless issues of our age: freedom, democracy, individual rights. They address what their country means to them: the greatness they see within it and their visions of what their country may become. This book contains a range of very famous speeches, including Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, Plato's "The Republic," "Geronimo's Story of His Life," Susan B. Anthony's Speech on Women's Rights to Vote, and Maya Angelou's "On the Pulse of Morning," as well as little-known gems such as Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus," Robert Riskin's "Meet John Doe," and George Smith Patton's speech to the 3rd Army, 6th Armored Division. Not only is Spirit of America a great tool for drama students, it also brings history to life through its extraordinary speeches.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a remarkable collection, in every respect. -- Stage Directions, November 2005

INTRODUCTION When we were first approached about editing a book of patriotic monologues we immediately went out and read all the plays that we could find, and let me tell you, we found hundreds of them. Some of them were very old and musty library books; the pages were so ancient that they cracked when we touched them with our hands. After so much reading we became disappointed. Unfortunately it seems that we found very little theater written about people's love for their country. And what we did find was written for and about men. There just haven't been

enough patriotic speeches written for women - a thing that I hope some of you readers will work on changing in future times. What a shame! We didn't know what to do. Then we remembered that in America's past, there were no such things as television and even radio. In the 1800s a lot of great monologues were given by orators, people who traveled from town to town giving speeches to paying audiences. In the 1600s and 1700s our country was so new that it was even difficult to reach a lecture hall sometimes, so ideas and opinions were written as published letters, essays, or poems. This was how people discussed and formed their ideas. So we became excited again. We read other books, and looked on the internet, becoming more and more involved with AMERICAN HISTORY! What we discovered, and what we hope you discover as you read and perform these monologues, is that history is not the dull, boring, memorize-the-dates-and-battles subject that we thought it was. History can be interesting and even fun sometimes. History was created by exciting people, like you and me. These people had strong beliefs; some of them did wonderful things, while some of them made terrible mistakes. Some of them were presented with important or scary opportunities to influence the events and people of their times. We hope that the words we chose from these patriots connect to you somehow. As you recite their words, or perform their words, we, the editors of Spirit of America, hope that you discover these patriots, become interested in them, and continue to learn more about them on your own. The Editor

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