

Star Search 2019  
Drama Monologue Level 4 - up to age 21

**In the Gut**  
by Justin Street

Character: Jonah, of Old Testament fame (though there's no reason a woman couldn't play Jonah)

JONAH

You know that feeling, deep down - when you should really do something, and you really really know that you should - but you don't? Like, way down deep. You know what I'm talking about?

What am I saying, of course you don't - you're a gallbladder. Or a spleen. I don't really know. There were lots of different classes at the synagogue, but the interior anatomy of large marine animals was not one of them.

What's that, ribs? Why am I even trying to speak to inner organs at all? Well I'm not exactly sure, as this is not a situation I'm used to. Stop ganging up on me.

I like to address who I'm speaking to because that's what I do. I am a prophet. We address people, and we generally do so specifically. It's not as powerful to deliver a message from God by starting with "good people" - that's not a strong start. It's better to start by saying who it is you're speaking to.

Plus if you start with "good people", then the bad people tend to tune you out. Not that they don't do that anyway, but it's best not to give them the excuse.

No, no. You need to start by being specific. I'm sorry, lungs, I didn't quite catch that. Try not to speak both at once. Oh, an example? Well fine, since you asked. It's much better to start by saying something along the lines of: "People of..." and then you fill in the

blank with wherever you are. You see?

What do you mean, like where? Can't you just imagine a place? Oh, that is the brain's job - that is a fair point. Fine. Ok, so it could be anywhere. I would go there, and say "People of Tarshish, I... I..."

I shouldn't be here.

Well of course that's not what I'd say, I was speaking for me, now. Though that would be fitting to say to the people of Tarshish, as I shouldn't have been there even if I'd made it, instead of being stuck here with all of you. I was supposed to go to Nineveh.

Yes, I am aware that it's not even in the same direction, thank you very much, appendix. Useless.

I didn't want to go. They're mean and they wouldn't want to hear what I had to say. Yes, I knew that I should. Deep down. Deeeeeeeep down. You know, in the gut. Well, of course you know. That's where we are, right? But it's much scarier up there. A lot of noise that you don't get down here where you really know stuff, deep down. Sometimes it's hard to hear. It's hard to remember what's down here.

Hmm? Maybe that is why I'm here, pancreas, you're right. I like how you process.

So what do I do now? Well, deep down, in my gut, I know that I should probably stop chattering away with all of you, and start talking to someone who I know can get me out of here.