



Hello! Thank you so much for tuning in to Beckett's Babies. We are so happy that you joined us! Every episode, we would love to attach a playwriting exercise that we love or find helpful as a resource so that you can go forth and start writing your own play! Below is a playwriting exercise inspired by this week's episode with your hosts, Sam Collier and Sarah Cho. Grab a notebook and a pen, let's get started!

BEGINNINGS

When I'm not sure how to start a play, I often begin with an image. But trying to think up the perfect image is a lot of pressure. So instead, I make a list of ten images. Here are some examples:

- A couple lost in a forest and consulting a giant paper map
- A woman standing on a roof and looking out over a city
- A man fast asleep on a dining room table, mid-morning

All of these images have some kind of question or mystery embedded in them: where is the couple going? How did the man end up on the table? Immediately, the mind starts to create scenarios - what will happen if another character enters right at this moment?

Once I have a list of at least ten, I choose one that appeals to me, for its dramatic potential or because I've started to wonder about one of the characters. And then I just start writing and see where it takes me.

If you find yourself getting stuck, set a timer and write for fifteen minutes without stopping, editing, or thinking. Remember - it's a first draft!

Good luck!