

## Lesson 11

## READ THIS STORY #1, Basic

**Stage Fright**

The third act of “Murder In The Lighthouse” was about to begin. The house lights dimmed. Paul and Janet took their places on the stage. This was the most dramatic part of the play. The curtain rose.

For a moment, Paul was blinded by the footlights. Then he strode to the desk and picked up the paperweight. All eyes were on Paul as he turned to the right to face Janet. He opened his mouth, but he didn’t utter a sound. Paul couldn’t remember his lines. He had never been more frightened. Paul tightened his grip on the paperweight and sighed. He looked at Janet helplessly. She moved toward him and began to talk. He knew she was trying to give him a clue. Soon Paul recognized her patter and recalled his lines. His voice sounded a bit shaky, but his brain was back on track.

Did they deceive the audience? Did anyone have a clue that Paul had slipped up? At the end of the show, the director slapped him on the back and shook his hand. Paul winked at Janet and gave her a hug before they stepped out to take their curtain calls.