

**Writing Exercise: Long Division**

Write a short narrative or scene in which two characters must divide a quantity of goods. The situation can be anything: a divorced couple, two hikers who find a bag of cash, sisters at a garage sale, or (as in Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*) two ragpickers squabbling over the clothes of a dead man. How did they get the goods? What goods are they dividing and what do these things represent? Are the characters equal in status? (Who remembers the Bugs Bunny episode: "One for me and one for you; two for me, and one for you, three for me . . .") Are they honest? Are they apparently honest?

Make sure each character has a distinctive voice, and make sure these voices are different from the narrator's voice.

Write the scene as much as you can as pure dialogue