**Writing a Duolog: Assignment created by James Moffett, *Active Voices III.***

*Directions:* Invent a conversation between two people by writing down just what each speaker says in turn. Place the name of the speaker before his or her speech in all caps; follow this with a colon. Do the same thing each time one of them speaks.

Don’t use quotation marks for these speeches. Use dialect and special idioms if it helps us see (hear) the speaker.

The time, place, and circumstances have to be clear from the words and actions of the characters. If the place and physical action can’t be made clear in their speech without awkwardness, state these briefly between parentheses at the appropriate points.

Your dualog can make any point. It might emphasize personalities or relationships. Or it might develop serious ideas or be a funny give-and-take.

This is a script for a single scene that should run for 4-8 minutes if read aloud.

Give the dualog a title that catches the main action or relationship.

This example is 365 words. You can write up to 1,000

The Louse

ADAM: Hi, Jenny. How are you?

JENNY: Don’t talk to me!

ADAM: What?

JENNY: You heard me. Don’t talk to me.

ADAM: What’s with you?

JENNY: Do you know what day yesterday was?

ADAM: Yeah. Wednesday.

JENNY: You fool! Just don’t talk to me.

ADAM: Why?

JENNY: Because yesterday was Valentine’s Day.

ADAM: So?

JENNY: So! “So,” you say. Don’t you know that on Valentine’s Day a guy is supposed to give a

 girl a Valentine’s present?

ADAM: Says who?

JENNY: I don’t know who said it, but it’s a tradition.

ADAM: Yeah. So it is.

JENNY: So, why didn’t you get me a Valentine’s present?

ADAM: Because I don’t have any money.

JENNY: No money? But you got paid on Tuesday.

ADAM: Yeah. But I spent all my money.

JENNY: On What?

ADAM: On a girl.

JENNY: On a girl! You louse! I was waiting for you all day yesterday, and

you have the nerve to tell me you spent your money on a girl instead of coming here.

ADAM: Yes. I had to get a present.

JENNY: A present!

ADAM: (Pulling something from behind his back.) Yes. Happy Valentine’s Day, Jenny.