



**The Boy**  
From *The Genius*  
By Horace Holley

Age Range: Adult, Young Adult

Style: Dramatic, Classical

Monologue:

“It isn't that, with me. I can't write.... I had one splendid teacher. He used to talk about things right in class. He said that most educated people think that intellect is a matter of making fine distinctions—of seeing as two separate points what the unintelligent would believe was one point; but that this idea was finicky. He wanted us to see that intelligence might also be a matter of seeing the connection between two things so far apart that most people would think they were always separate. I like that. It made education mean something, because it made it depend on imagination instead of grubbing. And then he told us about the history of our subject—grammar. How it began as poetry, when every word was an original creation; and then became philosophy, as people had to arrange speech with thought; and then science, with more or less exact, laws. I could see it—the thing became alive. And he said all knowledge passed through the same stages, and there isn't anything that can't eventually be made scientific. That made me think a good deal. I wondered if somebody couldn't work out a way of preventing anybody from being poor. It seems so unnecessary, with so much work being done. That's what I want to do. Thanks to you, I—”

Play Synopsis:

A man and a boy discuss poems and writing. The man also talks about his failed relationship with trying to be more brilliant than he is. As the man tells the boy about his stories, the boy gains a bit more understanding to life.

Read the Play Here:

<https://www.one-act-plays.com/dramas/genius.html>