

## Hollywood Subjunctive (Hollywood subjontif)

**Author :** Jean-Pierre Dopagne

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**Publisher:** Lansman Editions, in the « Démocratie mosaïque I » series, 1996

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**First Production:** At Liège, the 22nd of March, by the Liège Province Dramatic Arts Workshop

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**Theme:** Teaching, adolescence, literature, poetry, resistance...

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**Genre :** Comedy drama

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**Form:** Dialogue

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**Length:** 7 minutes

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**Casting:** 1 teacher, 1 inspector, 1 pupil

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### Comments:

Award winner in the 'A Stage for Democracy' writing competition, 1997

A short play particularly recommended for adolescents

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### Synopsis:

She had the temerity to use the subjunctive and read poets even though it had been stated that only math calculation books would be allowed at the school. Flore, 17, comes up against the inspector and the teacher, who have to punish this misdeed which has threatened the very integrity of the school system.

Every sentence turns on rhythm, word play and words of vivacity.

Highly recommended to those who admire audacity, the arts and freedom!

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### Extract:

**The Teacher:** Sometimes the young girl would arrive at the classroom looking pale, with an unfocused look, and with bags under her eyes.

**The Inspector:** Keeping bad company!... But to go from there to...Wait until I find it. Ah! There it is... (*from a pile of papers he pulls out Flore's essay*). You speak of governments... of politicians... You write (*he reads*) 'The children born into a predatory world, will not live a single day without rejecting it.' An essay in verse form! ... But, young lady, in an essay, 'poetry' – as you call it – it's nothing but a revolution! Anarchy! And above all ... but above all else: the subjunctive! Do you know what it is, the subjunctive ?

**The Teacher:** Yes ? The subjunctive ?

**The Inspector:** You doubtlessly consume too much of it, the subjunctive... It can seem nothing much, the subjunctive ... but it's a drug, young lady. A drug! 'Provided that...I would like that...I hope that'... Desire ! ... Dreams ! ... Escape ! ... Lies, yes ! That's what it is, the subjunctive ! Depravity, in its purest state ! ...

**The Teacher:** How very unfortunate.!...At the age of seventeen ...

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