

Monologue task

Monologue

A **monologue** is a long, uninterrupted speech from one character. In a monologue the audience may hear the character's thoughts and feelings.

Monologue comes from the Greek words 'mono' and 'logos' which together mean 'speaking alone'.

Thinking points

- Why might a playwright write a monologue for a character?
- What do you think a monologue might add to a drama on stage? To help you, think about what it might reveal to the audience and how/why this differs from what we find out when a character talks to other characters in the play.

Writing task

You are going to write a monologue for one of the characters in the play. You will need to think about which character you want to explore and what they might have to say.

This is a chance for you to use your skills as writer. You are going to give a character a voice so that they can express all their thoughts and feelings about what has been happening and what they think of others in the play. Use the power of your pen to help you!

Before you make a start, you will need to think about what you want the audience to understand about your character. Make a note of this and as you write, keep checking to make sure you are on track.

You should also think about ...

- how they will they speak e.g. *Quickly, hurriedly, gently, forcefully, humorously, kindly, thoughtfully?*
- what they might say e.g. *'I've always ...' 'People might think I'm ...' 'I know that if I could ...'*
- how they might stand or move about the stage e.g. *Still? Moving quickly? Jumping about?*
- what you want them to reveal e.g. *'I really think that ...' 'The truth is ...' 'From my heart ...'*
- what they *really* think about other characters in the play e.g. *'I know that he thinks he's doing the right thing, but ...'*

You might like to include stage directions for any other characters that might be on stage while your character is giving their monologue.

Monologue task

Checking your work

When you have written your monologue, read it through carefully and ask yourself the following questions:

- Does it help the audience to understand the character and their motivation more?
- What has the monologue revealed about the speaker?

Performance

This is your chance to show your drama skills. To do well, your choices of speech, gesture, and movement need to show insight into the text and issues. You should also be beginning to sustain and adapt different roles and scenarios.



How will you do this?

Annotate your monologue with thoughts about the way you will perform. Use the notes below to guide you.

Voice is one of the important tools an actor has in performance. Think about the way you can use your voice to emphasise critical parts of your monologue.

- **How loud should parts of your monologue be?**

Varying the volume of different parts will help emphasise different ideas in your monologue.

- **What tone of voice will you use?**

Tone is the sound of your voice. You might say certain lines with, for example, a sarcastic or humorous tone. Tone of voice is useful to reveal what a character is really thinking or feeling.

Don't think your character has to stand still while they deliver their monologue. Even if they are not moving around the stage, small movements can suggest things about their emotions.

- **What body language and actions will you use?**

Will your character sit or stand, and if they stand, will they be still or moving? Will they look at another character while they talk? What small movements can they use to show their emotional state?

Try *not* to use too much movement because it might take away from your monologue and make it hard for the audience to follow.

Monologue task

Practice makes perfect

Working either alone or with a partner, practise your monologue. If you are working with a partner, ask them to think about the four following questions when they give you feedback.

- How does it sound performed and spoken aloud?
- How believable is it, as the words and thoughts of your chosen character?
- Does it show the audience what you wanted it to reveal about the character?
- What could you add or change to improve it?

When you are happy with your work, perform your monologue and write a self-evaluation.

