

Learning and performing a monologue

Can you remember last year when you were learning all about Macbeth, you learnt some very famous lines said by Lady Macbeth all about a “spot”? This was one of Shakespeare’s most famous monologues.

A **monologue** is a speech delivered by one person, who exposes inner thoughts and provides insights into his or her character or part of the story plot.

The character/person speaks out their thoughts about a specific event or situation and tells us how they are feeling at that particular time. They are always written in first person (I think/I feel).

The Greek root word monologos translates to “speaking alone,” and that's a **monologue**: one person doing all the talking.

A monologue often occurs when a character is feeling **passionate** about a situation or an idea. We say this is when “**the stakes are high**.” When a character feels they have something to lose or win, their emotions grow much stronger.

Sometimes a monologue is used to move the action on in a film or play or to explain something that has happened in the past or is about to happen.

Let's explore Syndrome's monologue from The Incredibles



See? Now you respect me, because I'm a threat. That's the way it works. Turns out, there are a lot of people, whole countries, who want respect, and they will pay through the nose to get it. How do you think I got rich? I invented weapons, and now I have a weapon that only I can defeat, and when I unleash it, I'll get... You sly dog! You got me monologuing! I can't believe it. It's cool, huh? Zero-point energy. I save the best inventions for myself. Am I good enough now? Who's super now? I'm Syndrome, your nemesis and...Oh, brilliant.

Can you underline a question.

Circle the punctuation that tells you his stream-of-thought has been interrupted.

Highlight a sentence that tells you he is feeling vengeful.*

**vengeful=seeking revenge and/or to harm someone because of a past injury*

Do you recognise which series of films this monologue comes from?

Then, what shall we die for? You will listen to me! Listen! (stares into their eyes) The Brethren will still be looking here, to us, to the Black Pearl, to lead. And what will they see? Frightened bilge rats aboard a derelict ship? No. No, they will see free men and freedom! And what the enemy will see is the flash of our cannons. They will hear the ring of our swords, and they will know what we can do. By the sweat of our brows and the strength of our backs, and the courage of our hearts. Gentlemen. Hoist the colours!

CHARACTER: Who is speaking?
AUDIENCE: Who is she speaking to?
SETTING: Where are they?



Can you identify where the writer has used these five elements to add drama to the monologue:

- *Stage Directions*
- *Repetition*
- *Imagery and metaphor*
- *Pause and silence*
- *Changes of tone (attitude)*

Choose either of the two examples above to read and practice your delivery in terms of the way that you are speaking and the drama you want to portray. Think about everything you learnt with Jack last year and during drama on Friday afternoons.

Your task for this week:

- Choose a monologue from an appropriate film of your choice – it needs to be about a minute long.
- Write the monologue out in your neatest, clearest handwriting.
- Learn the monologue “off by heart”, ensuring you portray the passion and emotions as effectively as you can.
- Please ask an adult to film your monologue and send it in to school so that it can be shared with the rest of the class on Madley TV – remember to say at the beginning the name of the film and the character.

(If you cannot find one then there are some examples from the Lion King on a separate sheet, which you can choose from.)