

Understanding character and context

Read at least three monologues from the book and complete this chart to help you choose one that is right for you.

	Monologue 1	Monologue 2	Monologue 3
Play title / character:			
What is this play/ section about?			
What do you like about this monologue?			
What, if anything, don't you understand, or dislike?			
What acting skills could you show? (Vocal, physical, emotional range, characterisation, comedy, etc.)			
What, if anything, is challenging or difficult?			
What would you enjoy exploring in this monologue?			
Is this speech sufficiently different from your set play?			
Would you consider this for your performance? (Yes/No/Maybe)			

Below is a sample rehearsal schedule for guidance. You may have less or more time in which to rehearse and may be rehearsing more than one piece, so adapt your schedule to suit.

Rehearsal schedule		
Week	Activities	Outcomes
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Read the play. Make notes on the speech and the play as a whole. ▶ Read reviews of other productions, if available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Greater understanding of the speech and its context within the play.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Break the speech into units, deciding what the character wants at different points. ▶ Apply appropriate rehearsal techniques. ▶ Aim to get the first section on its feet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A more detailed understanding of the monologue and how it develops. ▶ Development of character ideas. ▶ Early experimentation with movement and vocal work.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Memorise the speech. ▶ Use different techniques to create the character and experiment with staging. ▶ Roughly set blocking. ▶ Organise costume, prop or staging requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Confidence in knowing the speech. ▶ Deeper understanding of character, adding interest to the performance. ▶ Begin solving the technical demands of the piece.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Share the monologue and respond to feedback. ▶ Polish the performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Greater confidence by performing to audience. ▶ Feedback highlights difficulties or unclear areas.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Vocal and physical warm-ups. ▶ Technical and dress rehearsals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Improve vocal diction and range, and fluent movement. ▶ Troubleshoot any last difficulties.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Go through the checklist for final performance. ▶ Full performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ensure everything is prepared for the performance.

Performance-sharing feedback

Name of performer:

Name of assessor:

What did you understand this monologue to be about?

What did you learn about the character?

At least one thing that worked well, for example:

- ▶ vocal skills
- ▶ physical skills
- ▶ characterisation
- ▶ engaging the audience's interest.

At least one thing that you wanted more of or could be developed further.

Something that wasn't clear – from a word you didn't understand to the aims of the character. Why wasn't it clear? How might it be improved?

Any other thoughts?

Improvement targets	
What needs to be improved?	Actions
For example: vocal skills; physical skills; confidence with lines; use of stage space; characterisation; entrance or exit; audience rapport.	For example: research, targeted rehearsals, practising with another actor, working on lines, improvisations.
Target 1:	
Target 2:	
Target 3:	

Checklist for the performance day

Have you...?



Made sure you know the running order of pieces on the day

Provided copies of your script to any technicians as appropriate

Checked that all edits and cues are clearly indicated on the script

Run through all technical cues

Located your costume and made any final repairs or adjustments

Ensured the safety of your performing space, including any stairs, flats or furniture

Put any props in place ready to go

Made arrangements for hair and make-up needs as necessary

Completed a vocal and physical warm-up

Run any other special checks needed