

## Understanding character and context

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

	Duologue 1	Duologue 2	Duologue 3
Play title/scene:			
What is it about?			
What do you like about this duologue?			
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, seems challenging or difficult?			
What would you enjoy exploring in this scene?			
Is this scene sufficiently different from your set play?			
Would you consider this as your performance scene? (Yes/No/Maybe)			

## A rehearsal schedule

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.

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

## Performance-sharing feedback

Use this sheet to ask for assessments that are constructive, balanced and thoughtful.

Performers:	
Assessor/s:	
What did you understand this duologue to be about?	
What did you learn about the characters?	
At least one thing that worked well, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ vocal skills</li> <li>▶ physical skills</li> <li>▶ characterisation</li> <li>▶ engaging the audience's interest.</li> </ul>	
At least one thing that could be developed further.	
Something that wasn't clear – from a word you didn't understand to the aims of the characters. Why wasn't it clear? How might it be improved?	
Any other thoughts?	

## Setting targets for improvements

Use the feedback and your own understanding of your work to set rehearsal 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

To help you go through your preparation on the day, use the following checklist.

Have you...?	✓
Made sure that 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	
Checked your costume and made any final repairs or adjustments	
Ensured the safety and access 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	
Carried out any other special checks that are required	