

Grade 9 Unit 20: Monologue

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GRADE 9 | English

UNIT 20

Monologue

When characters reveal a part of themselves in a story, their innermost thoughts and motives become a medium to reveal a powerful message. These play an important part in the flow of the story, justifying the characters' actions as well. In this unit, we will learn about the monologue: a means of expressing such inner ideas.

Objectives

In this unit, you should be able to:

- get familiar with the technical vocabulary for drama and theater;
- use a concept map to outline ideas;
- analyze the stand of the speaker based on the explicit statement made;
- explain the literary devices used; and
- compose and deliver a monologue.





Lesson 1: What Is a Monologue?

In ancient Greek theater, the origin of western drama, it started with only a single actor who would appear onstage along with the chorus. Eventually, this evolved into having two or more actors together onstage. Ancient Roman theater featured monologues more extensively than Ancient Greek theater. The key purpose of monologues then was to indicate the passage of significant amounts of time within scenes. From renaissance theater onward, monologues became used for characters to use dramatic speech to illustrate their inner thoughts and feelings.



Essential Question

How are the basic elements of drama combined to create improvised and scripted dramatic monologues?



Warm-up!

One-Minute Acting

Imagine this: One night, you were walking in the middle of a dark alley. Suddenly, your foot got caught on a strange, dirty, sack-like bag. You leaned down to look at the bag and was surprised to see huge piles of money in it. What would have been your reaction? Write down the thoughts that would have been running in your mind.





Learn About It!

A **monologue** is a speech that presents the words and innermost thoughts of a single author. A **monologist** is a person who delivers a monologue. Monologues present ideas, thoughts, and motives by a speaker through verbal and nonverbal elements such as facial expressions and gestures.

A. Types of Monologue

Monologues have different types according to how it is presented. These are:

1. Soliloquy

A soliloquy is a monologue that shows the character talking loudly to himself at length. In a soliloquy, the audience, and at times, the figures present in that particular scene, can hear what the character says, but the character is unaware of those who can overhear him.

An example of a soliloquy is the balcony scene in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* where Juliet is expressing her thoughts upon discovering that Romeo is a Montague:

*O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?
Deny thy father and refuse thy name;
Or, if thou wilt not, be but sworn my love,
And I'll no longer be a Capulet.*

In this example, Juliet believes she is alone in the balcony but the audience knows that Romeo is listening intently to everything she is saying.

2. Dramatic Monologue

A dramatic monologue is a formal or informal speech that the character gives directly

Vocabulary

- **stream of consciousness** - the continuous and unedited flow of one's conscious thoughts
- **interlocutor** - a person one is talking with
- **colloquialism** - an informal type of speech usually used in casual conversations
- **deictic** - words that point to a certain direction

to the audience or another character. In a dramatic monologue, the character reveals his or her traits and intentions that are relevant to the plot of the story.

An example of a dramatic monologue is in Robert Browning's "My Last Duchess" where the duke talks to guests in his home about his late duchess as they admire a portrait of her.

*She had
A heart—how shall I say?— too soon made glad,
Too easily impressed; she liked whate'er
She looked on, and her looks went everywhere.*

In this example, the duke is describing how the duchess had a personality where she became easily overjoyed and appreciative of the things around her. She also had a fascination with everything she saw.

3. Internal Monologue

An internal monologue is usually found in written texts such as novels and short stories, or in television and movies where the character's thoughts are exposed. Through internal monologue (also known as a "stream of consciousness"), the readers can see what is going through the character's mind. In writing, internal monologues can be identified through italicized texts. In television shows and movies, internal monologues can be described as the audience "hearing the character's thoughts."

B. Importance of Monologue

A monologue allows the readers to gain insight into who the characters are through their innermost thoughts and motives. It creates an idea in the audience's minds about what the character's mindset is and how this can help in inferring the character's actions and behavior in the entire story.

C. Features of a Dramatic Monologue

- It observes the use of the first-person pronoun "I" that stands for the persona, distinct from the poet.
- It uses verbs or expressions that refer to a listener or interlocutor who does not appear directly in the poem.
- It sometimes incorporates colloquialism with different levels of formality.
- It contains dramatic rather than lyrical language through the use of fillers such as *you*

see, well, etc., or of deictics like *here, there, that, this*, etc.

- It presents the revelation of a personality occurring at a critical point in the speaker's life.
- It reveals a marked interest in human psychology and the need to go beyond the limits of one's own self and experience.
- It is an instrument for a poet's investigation into the variety and complexity of the human mind and heart.

Let's Check In!

Look for examples of monologues in your favorite novels or movies.
Jot down or record the lines and share your work in class.



Check Your Understanding

Write on the first column what is being described in the second column.

	1. It is a speech that presents the words and innermost thoughts of a single author.
	2. This is the person who delivers a monologue.
	3. This type of monologue reveals the character's stream of consciousness.
	4. It is a type of monologue that shows the character talking loudly to himself at length.
	5. It is a formal or informal speech that the character gives directly to the audience or another character.



Let's Step Up!

With a partner, choose a monologue from a text or movie and write what you can infer about the character based on it. Answer the following questions, but make sure all your answers can be found within the monologue itself:

- Who is the character?
- Is the monologist a good, bad, or complicated person? Which parts of the monologue make you think so?
- What do you think are the monologist's intentions based on the monologue?

Share your output in class.

Let's Revisit The Essentials!

Go back to the essential question on the introduction page and discuss in class.



Lesson 2: Analyzing a Character for a Monologue

A monologue reveals the character's real thoughts and insights in a story. It is important to analyze what he or she says to understand him or her further; this requires character analysis. In this lesson, you will learn how to analyze a character based on information gleaned from a monologue.



Essential Question

Why is it important to understand a character's purpose and motive?



Warm-up!

Character Detail Sheet

Create your own character. Include the following information. Make your character as real and as believable as possible.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Nickname • Age • Residence and type of neighborhood • Birthplace • Height • Body type • Distinct features • Health condition • Type of clothes • Style of movement/mannerisms • Attitude/personality • Speech pattern • Hobbies • Likes or dislikes • Habits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talents • Dreams/ambitions • Fears • Eccentricities • Religious/superstitious beliefs • Significant relationship(s) (How have these people affected your character?) • Education (Was she or he a fair student? Did she or he graduate? Was it of any use to him or her?) • Profession/occupation (Is she or he good at it? Is she or he happy with his or her present work? What is his or her working relationship with the people around him or her?) |
|--|---|



Learn About It!

A **character analysis** is important especially in identifying and immersing yourself into the character's personality and traits. Through the monologue, these traits may become clearer to the reader or listener, which can help with giving perspective on the actions and behavior of the character.

The following guide questions may help you in understanding the character behind the monologue:

1. What is the main idea behind the monologue?
2. What is the tone and mood of the monologue?
3. To whom is the monologue spoken?
4. What are the character's goals or objectives?
5. What challenges did the character face? How did he or she solve these challenges?

Vocabulary

- **eccentricity** - refers to the odd or strange behavior of a person
- **immerse** - to completely involve oneself in an activity, concept, or idea
- **tumbling** - to fall in a rolling fashion

Take a look at the following example of a monologue.

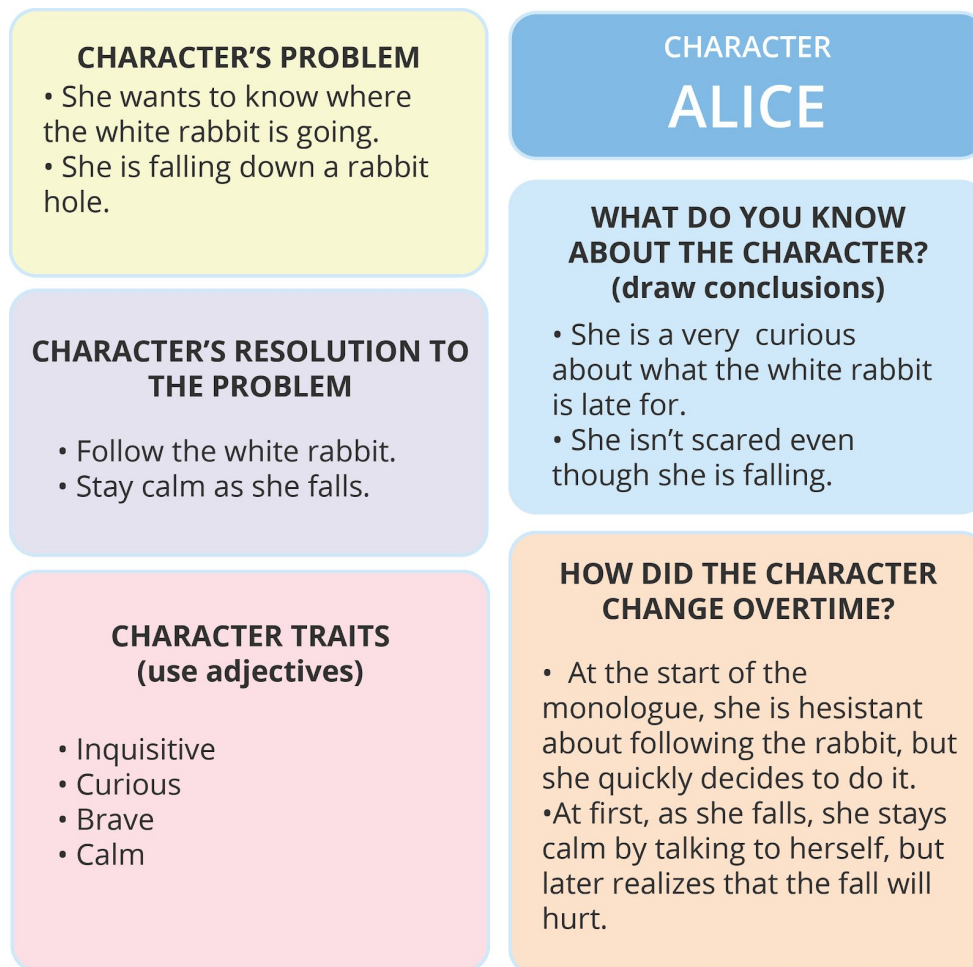
Alice: I say, Mr. White Rabbit, where are you going? Hmmm. He won't answer me. And I do so want to know what he is late for. I wonder if I might follow him. Why not? There's no rule that I mayn't go where I please. I-I will follow him. Wait for me, Mr. White Rabbit. I'm coming, too! (Falling) How curious. I never realized that rabbit holes were so dark . . . and so long . . . and so empty. I believe I have been falling for five minutes, and I still can't see the bottom! Hmph! After such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling downstairs. How brave they'll all think me at home. Why, I wouldn't say anything about it even if I fell off the top of the house! I wonder how many miles I've fallen by this time. I must be getting somewhere near the center of the earth. I wonder if I shall fall right through the earth! How funny that would be. Oh, I think I see the bottom. Yes, I'm sure I see the bottom. I shall hit the bottom, hit it very hard, and oh, how it will hurt!

In this example, Alice is having an internal monologue. You can tell from the words used that she is talking to herself as she falls down a rabbit hole, which she fell in after chasing the

white rabbit. She seems relatively calm as she falls, so the reader can infer that she is a brave and level-headed girl.

Another way to analyze a character is through a character map. A **character map** helps in identifying and understanding a character on a deeper level. It also shows how a character affects the details in a story. Here is an example of a character map:

CHARACTER MAP
Title: Down the Rabbit Hole



In this example, the monologue is analyzed through the use of the character map by answering the questions given. The map is based completely on the monologue and makes inferences based on the words the character uses. The map helps the reader or listener lay

out all the available information and gain new insight into the character.

Let's Check In!

Look back on the monologue you chose for *Let's Step Up!* in the previous lesson. Make a character map based on that monologue. Share your character map with your seatmate.



Check Your Understanding

Read the monologue below. Analyze the given character, and answer the questions that follow.

Harry:

I never thought I would see you again. Five years of trying to forget those hurtful memories, of trying to bury the pain of losing you to the one you truly loved. You sit there, looking outside as if you are waiting for me. Here I am, watching you, wishing I can go to you and say hello. I'm torn. I'm confused. I'm still hurt, but I still want to talk to you. But knowing you are well and looking happy makes me want to just stare. Just one more look, and then, maybe I can finally walk away.

1. What is the main idea behind the monologue?
2. What is the tone and mood of the monologue?
3. To whom is the monologue spoken?
4. What are the character's goals or objectives?
5. What challenges did the character face? How did he or she solve these challenges?



Let's Step Up!

Make your character come alive. Using the details you provided in the *Warm-up*, make a character analysis out of him or her. Then, construct an introduction paragraph for your character in five to seven sentences.

Let's Revisit The Essentials!

Go back to the essential question on the introduction page and discuss in class.



Lesson 3: Writing a Monologue

Writing a monologue also requires research and preparation. Based on what you learned from the previous lessons, a monologue must give insight into the thoughts and intentions of a character. You must make sure to use words that express these clearly. This lesson will help you in creating a monologue that is not only effective but also well planned and thought of.



Essential Question

How can writing a script help someone understand himself or herself and others?



Warm-up!

My Character's Voice

Internalize the character you created in the *Warm-up!* Of Lesson 2. Pretend your character finds himself or herself in the situation given in Lesson 1's *Warm-up!* activity. Create an internal dialogue out of the given scenario.



Learn About It!

Here are some tips for planning and writing your own monologue:

- **Think of the character.**

In thinking of a character for a monologue, you do not need to immediately identify the deeper details about him or her. You can start by thinking of distinct nonverbal elements such as facial expressions, gestures, and mannerisms that your character may possess. You may

Vocabulary

- **conforming** - following, obeying, or agreeing with a particular opinion or thought
- **upbringing** - the manner or way a child is raised
- **temperamental** - easily upset or angry; has very unpredictable mood swings

also think of an inspiration, like a favorite movie character or a person close to you. For example, if you would like to do a monologue of a mother, you may pattern your character's physical traits after that of your own mom.

- **Create a character profile.**

Now that you have set your character's physical traits, you can start thinking of a suitable character profile. This must include the following:

- Name (or nickname) of your character
- Age – Is the character a child, teenager, young adult, adult?
- Gender – Is the character male or female? Do they conform to any gender norm?
- Social status – what kind of upbringing did the character have? Does he or she have a job or is he or she still studying?
- Attitudes – What kind of attitude does your character have? Is he or she kind or greedy? Is he or she cool or temperamental?
- Others – This may include hobbies, likes and dislikes, and other important information that may help in the character profile.

- **Write your script.**

- Make sure that you introduce your character to the audience.
- Begin by giving a short line wherein the character speaks his or her mind. This must either be addressed to the audience or delivered as an aside.
- Make the audience or reader familiar with the situation your character is in by taking them on a journey of the character's thoughts.
- Make sure that the message of your monologue is received by the audience.
- Do not leave the monologue hanging and full of confusion. Try to end it as smoothly as possible.

- **Edit your draft.**

Do not forget to check for errors or add details that you think are relevant to your monologue. Do this until you feel that the monologue is up to your standards.

You may use an outline to plan out the details of your monologue. Here is a sample outline for monologue writing:

OUTLINE	DETAILS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Topic of the Monologue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Main Idea II. Character Profile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Name of Character B. Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Age 2. Gender 3. Occupation 4. Social Status C. Character Traits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbal Cues 2. Nonverbal Cues III. Details of the Monologue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Following a Rabbit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Alice sees a white rabbit in a coat and watch, exclaiming, "I'm late! I'm late!" She becomes curious about what he is late for, but he does not answer her queries and disappears into a rabbit hole. II. Character Profile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Alice B. Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 7 years old 2. Female 3. She is a student. 4. She is a young girl living in the mid-Victorian era of England. She has an older sister, a governess, and a pet cat. C. Character Traits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Verbal Cues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. She is curious and inquisitive. b. She tends to talk to herself a lot. 2. Nonverbal Cues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She is calm even in unusual or scary situations. III. Details of the Monologue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She is falling down a rabbit hole after following a talking rabbit.

Let's Check In!

Using the outline from the lesson, write a monologue outline for the character you created. You can base the monologue on a scenario of your choosing.



Check Your Understanding

Which of the following should be considered by the writer in creating his or her monologue? Put a checkmark beside each statement.

- _____ 1. Familiarize yourself with the character.
- _____ 2. Pattern your character's physical traits after an imaginary character.
- _____ 3. Leave the monologue hanging to create an unresolved atmosphere.
- _____ 4. Set a tone clearly.
- _____ 5. Plan the nuances of your character.



Let's Step Up!

Based on the monologue outline you wrote for *Let's Check In*, write an original monologue for your character. Make sure to use everything you learned about monologues in this unit. Share your finished monologue with a partner and critique each other's work.

Let's Revisit The Essentials!

Go back to the essential question on the introduction page and discuss in class.



Performance Task

Monologue Performance

Goal: Your task is to deliver a monologue you wrote based on an original character.

Role: You are a budding actor or actress. You are to perform a 500- to 700-word monologue for a character you have created. Write, explore, rehearse, and perform the monologue in order to create a compelling scene. You have a minimum of two minutes and a maximum of five minutes.

Audience: Your audience will be the director and producers of an acting company.

Situation: You are auditioning for a part in a play. You need to write your own monologue for the audition and convince the director and producers that you can take on the role of the lead character.

Product/Performance:

- 1) Write a 500- to 700-word monologue based on a character you created. It may be a highly dramatic piece or a lighthearted comedy. You could explore a character in turmoil, making a decision, or just explaining their feelings.
- 2) Print the script on a short bond paper.
- 3) Memorize the monologue.
- 4) Give a two- to five-minute compelling monologue performance onstage. You may also use props and costumes.

Standards and Criteria for Success: Your project will be graded using the rubric below:

	Criteria	Beginning (0-12 points)	Developing (13-16 points)	Accomplished (17-20 points)	Score
	Content	The monologue lacked any focal point.	The monologue has a focal point that is not clear or constant.	The monologue has a specific and distinct focal point that is	

General		The performance is not focused at all.	The performance is focused some of the time.	constant. The performance is very focused all the time.	
	Organization	The structure of the monologue is not constant throughout the text.	The structure of the monologue is constant throughout the text but is weak.	The structure of the monologue is constant throughout the text and is used effectively.	
	Language	There are many errors in either sentence structure, spelling, or grammar. Errors affect the understanding of the text.	There are errors in either sentence structure, spelling, or grammar. Errors affect the reader.	Sentence structure, spelling, and grammar are impeccable.	
	Punctuality	The work was submitted two or more days after the given deadline.	The work was submitted one day after given deadline.	The work was submitted on or before the given deadline.	
Task-specific	Memorization	The monologue is not memorized.	The monologue shows some choppiness and some lack of fluidity, needs more rehearsal.	All lines are correct, fluid, and display a command of the monologue.	
	Characterization	Character is not present.	Character is not constant and/or choices were not strong.	Strong choices are made to create the character fully.	
	Pronunciation,	There is trouble	Most of the	The monologue	

	Projection, and Vocal Variety	hearing and understanding the monologue from anywhere beyond the front of the theatre and/or monologue lacks any vocal variety.	monologue is easy to hear and understand but needs work on one of the Following: vocal variety, projection, or diction.	is easy to understand and hear. All words are clear and loud enough to be heard, and with good vocal variety.	
	Emotion	Emotion is missing.	Emotion is somewhat believable.	Emotion is believable and matches the character.	
Score:					



Self-Check: How Well Did I Learn?

Do a self-check on how well you learned the lessons in this unit. Place a checkmark in the appropriate box.

Skills	<i>I think I need more practice and assistance</i>	<i>I am familiar and can perform well with minimal assistance</i>	<i>I am confident that I can perform this on my own</i>
I am familiar with the technical vocabulary for drama and theater.			
I can use a concept map to outline ideas.			
I can analyze the stand of the			

speaker based on the explicit statements used.			
I can explain the literary devices used.			
I can compose and deliver a monologue.			

Wrap Up

- A **monologue** is a speech that presents the words and innermost thoughts of a single author.
- The types of monologues are **soliloquy**, **dramatic monologue**, and **internal monologue**.
- **Character analysis** aids in understanding a character on a deeper level. You may answer a set of guide questions or create a character map in doing a character analysis.
- In writing a monologue, take note of the following tips:
 - Think of the character.
 - Create a character profile.
 - Write your script.
 - Edit your script.



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