



SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUES COMPETITION 2019

Pupils are invited to learn a Shakespeare monologue off by heart or produce an original monologue based on a Shakespeare character, and film their performances. Visit our website to submit your entries.

Deadline Friday 1 March 2019

*Competition open to ISA members' schools only

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Shakespeare Monologues Competition 2019

Shakespeare's plays are full of fantastic moments when characters speak to the audience and tell them their inner feelings and desires.

Choose a monologue and learn it off by heart or produce an original monologue based on a Shakespeare character and simply film your performance!

- * Schools are invited to submit their entries via the online form on our website
- * Schools can submit maximum two entries per age group
- * Two activities: A- Memorise a monologue from a Shakespeare play
B- Devise your own monologue based on a character in a Shakespeare play
- * Maximum duration : 5 minutes per monologue
- * This competition is free to enter
- * Deadline Friday 1 March 2019
- * Competition open to ISA members' schools only

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Guidelines

ISA is very excited to offer to our pupils the Shakespeare Monologues Competition again this year. Schools are invited to [submit their entries online](#) via the ISA website by Friday, 1 March.

- There are four age group categories and a choice of two activities:

A. Learn a Shakespearean monologue

Choose a monologue, learn it by heart and film your performance. Here are some tips to help you:

- Voice, gesture and intonation are all really important to make your monologue come alive!
- Make sure you warm yourself up before you perform. Try humming to warm up your vocals, deep breathing to relax yourself, and stretching to loosen your muscles and joints for a lovely physical performance.
- Try ‘chunking’ up your monologue into bits. Give each chunk a title, linked to the emotion and desire of your character in that section. The chunks will make the speech easier to learn, and by thinking about emotions and desires for each chunk, you will avoid a flat delivery!
- Look at Shakespeare’s language. Sometimes he gives clues about which words to stress. He often uses antithesis, where he places one word against a word of opposite meaning. Look for *opposite* words and really ‘punch’ them to stress how important they are! (e.g. *FAIR is FOUL and FOUL is FAIR*)
- Look at Shakespeare’s rhythm. He often uses ten syllable lines in his verse (known as iambic pentameter). e.g. *If music be the food of love play on! Or A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse*). The rhythm might suggest confidence and passion. When the rhythm differs from the ten syllable pattern, it might suggest your character is uncertain, worried or pausing for thought on the missing beat. Be a detective and find clues to tell you how to deliver your line.
- Research your character and their journey in the Shakespeare play you have chosen. Are they good or evil? Are they content or miserable? Really throw caution to the wind and *become* your character for three minutes in front of the camera.
- See if you can find examples on YouTube of other actors performing your monologue. What do you like about their performance? What would you change about it?

B. Produce an original monologue based on a Shakespeare character you know well.

When you have written your script, learn it by heart and perform it for camera.

Do read the performance tips above as well. Here are some ideas:

- a) An original monologue for Malvolio, explaining how we will get revenge on the ‘whole pack’ of characters from *Twelfth Night* who humiliated him.
- b) An original monologue for Ophelia, explaining how she feels at the moment just before she drowns herself. Why is she taking such drastic action? What are her feelings about her dead father and Hamlet’s rejections?

- **Duration**

The maximum duration for any submission is five minutes.

- **Competition classes**

Schools are invited to enter a maximum of two monologues for each of the Key Stages 2 to 5. So a maximum of eight entries in total per school, spread across the Key Stages.

For example a school could enter 2 x A1, 2 x B2, 1 x A3 and 1 x B3, 2 x B4

A- Performances of Learnt Shakespeare Monologues

A1 – Key Stage 2 Learnt Monologue

A2 – Key Stage 3 Learnt Monologue

A3 – Key Stage 4 Learnt Monologue

A4 – Key Stage 5 Learnt Monologue

B- Performances of Original Monologues

B1 – Key Stage 2 Original Monologues

B2 – Key Stage 3 Original Monologues

B3 – Key Stage 4 Original Monologues

B4 – Key Stage 5 Original Monologues

How to enter

- Step One** Choose your activity (A or B) and prepare the class
- Step Two** Set a homework or class time for pupils to memorise and practice their drama piece.
- Step Three** Pupils film their monologues and perform them to each other.
- Step Four** Select your favourite to enter to the competition.
(Maximum two entries per age group, per school)
- Step Five** Upload the film to YouTube (and ensure the settings are public).
- Step Six** Complete the [online entry form](#) (you will need the URL for the YouTube video).

In the meantime, if you have any questions please contact marie-ange.moncuy@isaschools.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your entries