



INDEPENDENT
S C H O O L S
A S S O C I A T I O N



ISA SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUE COMPETITION 2022

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!

**Deadline for entry
Wednesday 2 March 2022**

Visit the [ISA website](http://www.isaschools.org.uk) for the rules and guidelines and to submit your entries.

Competition open to ISA Members' schools only

www.isaschools.org.uk
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ISA SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUE COMPETITION 2022 – RULES AND GUIDELINES

- Eligibility

This competition is open to ISA Members' schools only. Schools can enter a maximum of two monologues for each of the Key Stages categories. (So a maximum of six entries in total per school, spread across the Key Stages). We encourage schools to run a competition in house and put through their best monologues.

- Competition classes

A. Performances of Learnt Shakespeare Monologues

- Key Stage 2 Learnt Monologue
- Key Stage 3 Learnt Monologue
- Key Stage 4 & 5 Learnt Monologue

B. Performances of Original Monologues

- Key Stage 2 Original Monologue
- Key Stage 3 Original Monologue
- Key Stage 4 & 5 Original Monologue

- Tips and advice

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:

- An original monologue for Malvolio, explaining how we will get revenge on the 'whole pack' of characters from *Twelfth Night* who humiliated him.
- 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.

- How to enter

Entries must be submitted via the online form on the ISA website by Wednesday 2 March 2022 the latest.

- Step One Choose your activity (1 or 2) 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 category, per school)
- Step Five Upload the film to Vimeo, YouTube, Dropbox or any video platform (please note that the videos of the winners will be published on the ISA website and shared on our social media).
Make sure there is no password required to view the video. Please note that entries must be a link, ISA won't be able to download files.
- Step Six Complete the online entry form (you will need the URL for the video).

If you have any questions, please contact isaarts@isaschools.org.uk
We look forward to receiving your entries.