

SUMMER TASK

ENGLISH LANGUAGE



In preparation for year one, you have some work to do over the summer.

TASK

Create a dramatic monologue (1st person narrative from the perspective of one character performed for TV, radio or stage) of between 750-1000 words. Consider the following:

- The age or gender of the main protagonist (central character).
- What is the setting?
- Themes for exploration within the monologue.
- Facing your narrator/character with a problem they have to face and resolve or perhaps not resolve.
- Create a real sense of personal voice using 1st person singular pronoun "I" throughout.
- Written to be spoken and performed for an audience.
- Use the technical term "Fade" at points in the play where there is zooming out and zooming in on the central character at important points in your narrative development.
- Think consciously about the words, phrases and sentences you are using to create particular effects. Consider your audience and purpose.

- What is a dramatic monologue?
A poem in the form of a speech or narrative by an imagined person, in which the speaker inadvertently reveals aspects of their character while describing a particular situation or series of events.
What a dramatic monologue looks like...

Extracts of a dramatic monologue by Yorkshire playwright, Alan Bennett, focusing on a 30+ year old housewife.

Afternoon. The kitchen. Against a blank, wallpapered wall. One chair. Possibly some artificial flowers. Similar settings throughout.

I'd be the same if it was a cat. Because they make as much mess as dogs. Only cats you can be allergic to, so people make allowances. And flowers, of course, some people. Only we don't have flowers. Well, we do but they're all washable. I just think it spies on me, that tongue lolling out.

He took the van over to Rawdon last night. Said it was Rawdon anyway. Doing something or other, fly-tipping probably. Takes Tina which was a relief from the woof-woofing plus it gave me a chance to swill.

I'd had Mrs Catchpole opposite banging on the door in the afternoon saying she was going to the council because it wanted putting down. I said, 'I agree.' She said, 'I'm getting a petition up.' I said, 'Well, when you do, fetch it across because I'll be the first signatory.' I hate the flaming dog. Of course she doesn't do it with him. Never makes a muff when he's around.