

Write a Monologue for the Antagonist

Write and perform a monologue that tells a traditional story from another point of view

1. Explore some different stories that have a clearly defined protagonist (good guy) and antagonist (bad guy). You may want to look at musicals, fairytales, or folk tales.

This website has a great collection of fairytales and folktales:

<https://www.surlalunefairytales.com/index.html>

Here's a great list of musicals:

https://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/wos100-the-top-100-musicals-of-all-time_34333.html

2. Think about the point of view from which the story is told. Most traditional fairy tales are told by a narrator who sees and knows everything, but who has a certain way of looking at things. For example, the Wolf is often the “bad” character. However, many newer versions of traditional tales are told from a different point of view—for example, a story told by The Giant or The Pea. Think about how a different point of view would change the story.
3. Choose a specific story to focus on. Using the worksheet below, identify the traditional protagonist(s) and antagonist(s) of the story. Then use the questions to consider how the story may be different if told from the antagonist’s point of view.
4. Once you’ve completed the worksheet, use your answers to help develop your monologue. Remember, a good monologue consists of 1) the character talking to another specific character and 2) the character trying to get something they want. Try to be as clear as possible about who the character is and what they want.
5. Revise and rewrite! Do as many drafts as you need until you are happy with your monologue. You can check out my example monologue (below), which went through about three drafts.
6. When you’re ready, record! Record a video of yourself performing your monologue. Upload it via the ACT Spotlight page to share it with us! Videos are due by Thursday at 3pm.

Worksheet: Identifying Points of View

1. Who is the protagonist (“good guy”) of the story? Who is the antagonist (“bad guy”)?
2. What does the protagonist want? What does the antagonist want?
3. How does the antagonist feel about the protagonist?
4. How is the protagonist standing in the way of what the antagonist wants? How can the antagonist get what they want?
5. Is there a backstory that you know (or can create) about the antagonist?

Example Monologue

Can you identify the character, what they want, and who they're speaking to?

Look! Look what you've done to us, Mother. I know you loved me once, when I was very small. You'd wrap me in your arms, and I'd breathe your scent and you'd call me your little one. But soon there was a new baby, a sister. And as she grew, you taught me that she was more beautiful than I. Your embraces became scarce, and you no longer smiled for me. All of your heart was devoted to that rosy, smiling, curly haired brat. And I ached for you, Mother. I longed for your warm arms and your comforting voice. I wanted you to belong to me again. But the more lovely and vibrant she grew, the more invisible I became, and day by day my heart grew to ice. But now they call me Queen. And you are mine once more—all mine-- as long as you remain behind this enchanted glass. So tell me now, Mother, my mirror, who is the fairest of them all?