

**Crafting Characters
Monologue Workshop #1**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Writing Prompts:

What is a playwright?

What playwrights and plays do you enjoy? Or, what authors and stories do you enjoy?

What kinds of conversations do you like to eavesdrop on?

Character Questions:

What is your character's name?

How old are they?

Give them some personality traits (positive and negative).

Describe some important relationships in their life (family, friends, etc...).

What's their job or role?

What do they want?

Monologue Example #1

***You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* by Clark Gesner**

Sally, Charlie Brown's little sister, is not happy she received a 'C' on her sculpture.

Sally: A 'C'? A 'C'? I got a 'C' on my coat hanger sculpture? How could anyone get a 'C' in coat hanger sculpture? May I ask a question? Was I judged on the piece of sculpture itself? If so, is it not true that time alone can judge a work of art? Or was I judged on my talent? If so, is it fair that I be judged on a part of my life over which I have no control? If I was judged on my effort, then I was judged unfairly, for I tried as hard as I could! Was I judged on what I had learned about this project? If so, then were not you, my teacher, also being judged on your ability to transmit your knowledge to me? Are you willing to share my 'C'? Perhaps I was being judged on the quality of coat hanger itself out of which my creation was made...now is this not also unfair? Am I to be judged by the quality of coat hangers that are used by the dry cleaning establishment that returns our garments? Is that not the responsibility of my parents? Should they not share my 'C'? Thank you, Miss Othmar. *(to audience)* The squeaky wheel gets the grease!

Monologue Example Questions #1

What is this character's Need to Tell? Who are they talking to?

What does this character want?

What is standing in their way?

Monologue Example #2

***You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* by Clark Gesner**

CHARLIE BROWN *sees the "cute little red-headed girl" and wonders if she will notice him.*

There's that cute little red-headed girl eating her lunch over there. I wonder what she would do if I went over and asked her if I could sit and have lunch with her? She'd probably laugh right in my face... it's hard on a face when it gets laughed in. There's an empty place next to her on the bench. There's no reason why I couldn't just go over and sit there. All I have to do is stand up... I'm standing up! I'm sitting down. I'm a coward. I'm so much of a coward, she wouldn't even think of looking at me. She hardly ever does look at me. In fact, I can't remember her ever looking at me. Why shouldn't she look at me? Is there any reason in the world why she shouldn't look at me? Is she so great, and I'm so small, that she can't spare one little moment? SHE'S LOOKING AT ME!! SHE'S LOOKING AT ME!! (*he puts his lunch bag over his head.*) ...Lunchtime is among the worst times of the day for me. If that little red-headed girl is looking at me with this stupid bag over my head she must think I'm the biggest fool alive. But, if she isn't looking at me, then maybe I could take it off quickly and she'd never notice it. On the other hand...I can't tell if she's looking, until I take it off! Then again, if I never take it off I'll never have to know if she was looking or not. On the other hand...it's very hard to breathe in here. (*he removes his sack*) Whew! She's not looking at me! I wonder why she never looks at me? Oh well, another lunch hour over with... only 2,863 to go.

Monologue Example Questions #2

What is this character's Need to Tell? Who are they talking to?

What does this character want?

What is standing in their way?