

Romeo and Juliet

Monologue vs. Soliloquy

MONOLOGUE

a speech by one character
in a play; intended to be
heard by other characters

SOLILOQUY

a long speech expressing the
thoughts of a character; gives
insight into a character

HOW DO I TELL THE DIFFERENCE?

ASK YOURSELF:

WHO IS THE INTENDED AUDIENCE?

IS THERE ANYONE ON STAGE?

ARE THE PEOPLE ON STAGE SUPPOSED TO HEAR THIS?

DOES THIS GIVE INSIGHT INTO THE PRIVATE
THOUGHTS OF THE SPEAKER?

ARE THE
FOLLOWING
SPEECHES
MONOLOGUES OR
SOLILOQUYS?

Act 1 Scene 3, lines 16-48

Nurse: Even or odd, all the days of the year,
Come Lammas Eve at night shall she be fourteen.
Susan and she (God rest all Christian souls!)
Were of an age. Well, Susan is with God:
She was too good for me. But, as I said,
On Lammas Eve at night shall she be fourteen:
That shall she, marry: I remember it well.
'Tis since the earthquake now eleven years.
And she was weaned (I never shall forget it. . .

monologue

Act 2 Scene 3, lines 1-30

Friar: The gray-eyed morn smiles on the frowning night,
Check'ring the eastern clouds with streaks of light;
And flecked darkness like a drunkard reels
From forth day's path and Titan's burning wheels.
Now, ere the sun advance his burning eye
The day to cheer and night's dank dew to dry,
I must upfill this osier cage of ours. . .

soliloquy

Act 1 Scene 1 lines 72- 94

Prince: Rebellious subjects, enemies to peace,
Profaners of this neighbor-stained steel—
Will they not hear? What, ho! You men, you beasts,
That quench the fire of your pernicious rage
With purple fountains issuing from your veins!
On pain of torture, from those bloody hands. . .

monologue

Act 3 Scene 2, lines 1-31

Juliet: Gallop, apace, you fiery-footed steeds,
Towards phoebus's lodging! Such a wagoner
As Phaeton would whip you to the west
And bring in a cloudy night immediately,
Spread thy close curtain, love-performing night,
That runaways' eyes may wink, and Romeo
Leap to these arms untalked of and unseen. . .

soliloquy

Act 4 Scene 3, lines 14-58

Juliet: Farewell! God knows when we shall meet again.
I have a faint cold fear thrills through my veins
That almost freezes up the heat of life.
I'll call them back again to comfort me.
Nurse!~What should she do here?
My dismal scene I needs must act alone. . .

soliloquy

Act 4 Scene 5, lines 65-85

Friar: Peace, ho, for shame! Confusion's cure lives not
In these confusions. Heaven and yourself
Had part in this fair maid—now heaven hath all,
And all the better is it for the maid,
Your part in her you could not keep from death.
But heaven keeps his part in eternal life. . .

monologue

Act 2 Scene 2 lines 2-24

Romeo: But soft! What light through yonder window
breaks?

It is the East, and Juliet is the sun!
Arise, fair sun, and kill the envious moon,
Who is already sick and pale with grief
That thou her maid art far more fair than she
Be not her maid, since she is envious. . .

soliloquy