

Key Concept: **Connections**
Related Concepts: **Character, Theme, Intertextuality**

The soliloquy

Unit 2: Villainous Characters

Statement of Inquiry: *Archetypal characters act as intertextual links across time, place and genre.*

Global Context: Identities and relationships (consciousness of mind, motivation)

Examining text

How does a soliloquy differ from a monologue?

Coming from a combination of the Latin words *solo*, meaning “to himself,” and *loquor*, meaning “I speak,” a soliloquy offers playwrights a handy way of keeping the audience aware of the play’s plot and progress, as well as providing insight into a character's private motivations and desires.



What are the conventions of a soliloquy?

Shakespeare gives characters soliloquies for lots of different reasons, but characters are usually open with the audience in these speeches. Have a look at Lady Macbeth's [Act 1 Scene 5 soliloquy](#) and see if you can notice the things Essiedu tells us to look out for. Discuss your ideas with a partner.

- Punctuation
- Line endings
- Sounds

Extension: If you're up for a challenge, watch [this](#) short TEDx school talk on Shakespeare's language, particularly iambic pentameter.

What can a soliloquy reveal about character that dialogue cannot?

Complete the first page of the [“Analysing Lady Macbeth’s Soliloquy” task](#).

Examining performance

What are some examples of non-verbal language?

- Kinesics (or body movements)
- Proxemics (or closeness/personal space)
- Posture
- Eye contact
- Touch
- Paralanguage (e.g., volume, tone of voice)
- Facial expressions
- Physiology (e.g., sweating, blinking)

What can non-verbal language reveal that verbal language cannot?

What other means of non-verbal communication do theatre directors/producers use?

- Performance (This includes elements of non-verbal language highlighted on the previous slide.)
- Blocking
- Costumes
- Lighting
- Set Design

How do performers use non-verbal language to convey emotion?

Watch the 5 different versions of Lady Macbeth's "The raven is hoarse" soliloquy from Act I, Scene v. You can find a montage of these different performances on [Digital Theatre Plus](#).

Complete the second page of the ["Analysing Lady Macbeth's Soliloquy" task](#).