

Higher Drama Skills 2020-21

In this unit of work, you are asked to create a 7-10-minute monologue.

Learners who complete this Unit will be able to:

1 Apply complex drama skills

2 Contribute creatively to the drama.

**Apply complex drama skills by:**

Responding to stimuli, including text, to develop ideas for drama

Exploring form, genre, structure and style

Developing and communicating ideas.

**Contribute creatively to the drama by:**

Planning, devising and evidence on directing the dramatic monologue.

Using complex acting skills to portray character to an audience

Evaluating their own work and that of one other monologue created by fellow student.

**Evidence Requirements for the Unit**

Evidence will be a combination of written, oral, recorded and practical evidence.

For this Unit, learners will be required to provide evidence of responding creatively to stimuli, including text using a range of skills in acting, design and directing & the ability to evaluate their own work and that of others.

How to begin this unit

All drama is created by a stimulus, in essence you cannot create something from nothing. To bake a cake you need ingredients, but enough of the foody metaphors.

The starting point of this drama is research around a given stimuli. For this unit you are expected to show evidence by collecting research on- **Dramatizing a historical figure**. This will involve you creating a 7-10-minute monologue on at least **two** historical people from the past.

You will show evidence on these characters for example their background what inspired or affected them, what were their hopes, the time period, the social backgrounds to these individuals.

You will then choose one idea to finalise you monologue for performance.

All your evidence will be collected into an organised file or standard clip folder.

You will keep all draft scripts, draft set designs, costume, lighting and make up and final drafts

(including ground plans and elevations of the set) which will be submitted at the end of the unit.

**Research.**

**Who will you dramatize?**

Ask yourself what interests you, what time period? Etc

Look at people from the past who were not necessarily known on a global scale it may be someone more local.

Research speeches, how would you dramatize them?

Remember to be creative.

Examples

The following excerpt is from the speech attributed to Calgacus by the Roman historian Tacitus.

This monologue was written many years after the battle of Mons Grampus in Scotland.

Here Tacitus gives us a speech from the point of view Calgacus leader of the Pict response to Roman invasion of Scotland.

*“Whenever I consider the origin of this war and the necessities of our position, I have a sure confidence that this day, and this union of yours, will be the beginning of freedom to the whole of Britain. To all of us slavery is a thing unknown; there are no lands beyond us, and even the sea is not safe, menaced as we are by a Roman fleet. And thus, in war and battle, in which the brave find glory, even the coward will find safety. Former contests, in which, with varying fortune, the Romans were resisted, still left in us a last hope of succour, inasmuch as being the most renowned nation of Britain, dwelling in the very heart of the country, and out of sight of the shores of the conquered, we could keep even our eyes unpolluted by the contagion of slavery. To us who dwell on the uttermost confines of the earth and of freedom, this remote sanctuary of Britain's glory has up to this time been a defence. Now, however, the furthest limits of Britain are thrown open, and the unknown always passes for the marvellous. But there are no tribes beyond us, nothing indeed but waves and rocks, and the yet more terrible Romans, from whose oppression escape is vainly sought by obedience and submission. Robbers of the world, having by their universal plunder exhausted the land, they rifle the deep. If the enemy be rich, they are rapacious; if he be poor, they lust for dominion; neither the east nor the west has been able to satisfy them. Alone among men they covet with equal eagerness poverty and riches. To robbery, slaughter, plunder, they give the lying name of empire; they make a solitude and call it peace”*

* For example, where would you set this?
* What would the set look like?
* Who is Calgacus addressing?
* SFX, LFX etc
* Costume

**A letter written from a WWI German soldier to his fiancée back in Germany)**  
**Peter:** *My Dearest Sophia. I swell with fear. I was naive when I entered this war. I was also selfish to think that this was my victory to win, my battle to fight, refusing to realize the whole, the men with their reasons for enlisting in this war. The battles were short, lasting but hours, though seeming like days and even years. The anticipation of the first shot to be expelled from the enemies’ gun is enough to drive a man insane. The mustard gas meant for the other side must be jettisoned with perfection, for if the wind were to shift, it would be my fate. I sit here cold as the night, men surrounding me, smelling of an odour I can't explain, and crawling with lice. They sleep not knowing when they will be awakened but are still prepared to fight. I don't understand how men can sleep with loaded machines guns next to them. I keep my dagger close in the event of an enemy storming my territory. The trenches are only but three feet wide, tall men are cramped together, forced to cram like animals. As I lay in my hiding spot, I take off my helmet and admire the spike on top, symbolizing the strength Germany thinks it has. I am no longer the man you knew, my ideals of the glory of war are no longer praised, but instead I condemn the war and all it has shown me. I am left in despair, a broken man not worthy of the love of a women, but instead damned to a hell inside his own mind. What we had is lost and I am dead. Marry another. Private Peter von Verdenan of the 117th Regiment.*

* For example, where would you set this?
* What would the set look like?
* Who is Calgacus addressing?
* SFX, LFX etc
* Costume
* Who is Sophia could you use this letter as a basis and create a monologue from Sophia’s point of view?

**Mary Wollstonecraft,**[**A Vindication of the Rights of Woman**](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/1938850) 1792

*“I earnestly wish to point out in what true dignity and human happiness consists. I wish to persuade women to endeavour to acquire strength, both of mind and body, and to convince them that the soft phrases, susceptibility of heart, delicacy of sentiment, and refinement of taste, are almost synonymous with epithets of weakness, and that those beings are only the objects of pity, and that kind of love which has been termed its sister, will soon become objects of contempt.”*

*“But women are very differently situated with respect to each other for they are all rivals. Is it then surprising that when the sole ambition of woman centres in beauty, and interest gives vanity additional force, perpetual rival ships should ensue? They are all running the same race, and would rise above the virtue of morals, if they did not view each other with a suspicious and even envious eye.”*

These are just three examples of monologues that could be adapted and dramatized into a performance piece.

So, crack on and start collecting speeches, look at historical press cutting whether national or local for your ideas.

Good luck

Mr Mead

As I have difficulty receiving e-mails you can contact me at this address.

I may take a few days in getting get back to you.

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