*NB All page references and quotes are taken from the Penguin Shakespeare series 2005 edition*

**You are going to write and perform a monologue from the point of view of Hermia’s father, Egeus in Act 1, Scene 1.**

A monologue is a speech for one person. It is usually an opportunity for a character to speak to the audience about their innermost feelings, without revealing them to other characters.

**What to include in your monologue:**

* What is Hermia like? Is this disobedience out of character? Does she usually do as she is told? Is she always going against your wishes as her father?
* What do you think of Demetrius?
* What are your opinions of Lysander?
* What are your thoughts on love versus duty?
* Are you really prepared to allow the full force of the law to come down on your child? Explain yourself.

**Rehearsing your monologue for performance**

Once you have written your monologue, you are ready to start rehearsing it for performance. This is your chance to tell the audience your side of the story. Consider the following points:

* **Character:** How is your character feeling in this monologue and what do you want the audience to think?
* **Facial expression:** How can you reveal how your character feels through facial expression? Think about how you use your eyes/eye contact, eyebrows, nose, and mouth.
* **Movement:** How will your character move around the space? Consider that sometimes a lot of movement may be unnecessary.
* **Voice:** How will you use your voice in this work to best show your character? Consider **pitch** (whether your voice is high or low), **pace (**how quickly or slowly is your character speaks) and v**olume** (how loud or quiet should your voice be).
* **Emphasis:** Are there any words/lines that you think need emphasis? Why?
* **Pause:** Pausing can have great dramatic effect. Where might you pause?
* **Tone:** What are you trying to express with your tone? Sometimes the words you say and the voice you use might conflict. For example, Egeus might say he doesn’t care that Hermia is unhappy, but his tone of voice might tell the audience something else.
* **Audience reaction:** How do you want the audience to feel about your character in this scene?

**When you have finished rehearsing, be prepared to perform your monologue in small groups.**