Miss Harrington’s Virtual Monologues

Below are 12 monologues. For the next few lessons, we will be focusing on improving this skill. Each lesson you choose the one you like the best and spend a week learning the lines and practicing your delivery.

Before the submission date, video record your monologue, and upload it to our Teams page.

**You will be graded on the following criteria:**

**FLUENCY OF LINES: How accurately you remember the lines inn performance- remember, I will be able to tell if you are reading the lines from behind the camera!** ***(5 marks)***

**LIGHTING: Find a place where there is an abundance of natural light in front of you if possible. Natural light coming from a window illuminating the actor’s face/body is best.  You do not want there to be any bright windows or lights behind you – this will create shadows. If you do not have access to a window, consider arranging floor lamps, desk lamps or other lighting in front of you illuminating your face. You can even use other phones with their flash on to provide extra light in a pinch.** ***(5 marks)***

**CLUTTER: Remove all clutter from the place you’ll be recording. This doesn’t mean the room or space can’t have character or personality, but it should feel neat and non-distracting.** ***(5 marks)***

**SPACING: Ideally you don’t want to be right up against a wall, as it can make the viewer feel uncomfortable. Consider standing at least 12 inches or more from a wall. How will you move around the space in role?** ***(5 marks)***

**AUDIO: Standing on a carpet or rug is best as it will make the room sound less echo-y. Close the doors and windows (and turn off any heating or air conditioning) to make the room as quiet as possible so the only thing that can be heard is your voice. Standing further from a wall will also help to reduce echo reflections.** ***(5 marks)***

**FRAMING: The video should be shot horizontally. You should be in the centre of the frame with the bottom of the frame at the bottom of your chest and the top of the frame slightly above the top of your head.** ***(5 marks)***

**CHARACTERISATION AND POSITIONING: Ideally, the camera should remain stationary in one position throughout the scene otherwise you risk distracting your viewer. Don’t let the person behind the camera try any artsy or fancy camera movements. You need to be aware of your characterisation and the story you wish to tell. This means standing up and fidgeting because you may be nervous will make it seem like you are not really in role. Each monologue is open to interpretation so you can decide on the context and character.** ***(5 marks)***

**RATIONALE: Each time you submit your performance, you will need to submit a 500-word justification that tells me why you made the choices you made. How did you decide on the setting/props/lighting/characterisation?** ***(5 marks)***

**Total of 40 marks available-**

**35-40 marks = Grade 9-8**

**25-35 marks = Grade 7-6**

**15- 25 marks = Grade 5-4**

**5- 15 marks = Grade 3-2**

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Monologue 1-

**SHARING**

Some people think I don’t like sharing, but that isn’t true at all. I love sharing. I mean, what’s not to love about being able to go up to someone and say, “Hey, can I have some of that candy?” And then they give you some! Or, “Can I ride your bike for a while?” And then you get to ride their bike! Sharing is awesome. Sometimes you have to be careful, though. Like if someone comes up to me and says, “Can I have one of your cookies?” Well, if I gave them a cookie, then I might not have any cookies left to share with other people and that would be, like, the opposite of sharing. So I have to say no. Because sharing is really important.

Monologue 2-

**BUGS**

I like bugs. A lot. Spiders, ants, beetles, scorpions. Most people don’t even know that scorpions are insects. They think they’re lizards or something. But they’re not. Even lobsters are related to spiders. Yeah. So enjoy your dinner. Everyone’s always telling me that bugs are disgusting. But I say, if you can like dogs, why can’t you like bugs? Truth is, most dogs are covered with bugs anyway. So every time you pet your dog, you’re really just petting a bunch of bugs. Even I wouldn’t do that. Yeah. Now who’s the disgusting one?

**Monologue 3-**

**WAITING**

(Your character is staring at the clock, waiting for the end of the school year.)

The last ﬁve minutes before the end of the school year has to be the longest ﬁve minutes in the world. Seriously. Entire planets have been formed and exploded in less time. And it doesn’t help that this clock is deﬁnitely broken. Look at how slow the second hand is moving. Tick . . . . . . .Tock . . . . . . . Tick. Why doesn’t somebody ﬁx that thing? Come On! It’s not like the janitor has anything better to do. Good grief – I think I just saw the second hand move backwards. Hold on. Was that . . . ? Yes! The minute hand just moved up one minute! (Stare at the clock for an extended moment.) Sheesh. The last four minutes before the end of the school year has to be the longest four minutes in the world.

**Monologue 4-**

**SCOUT**

Before we moved here, we had this big dog named Scout. Mom always said he was a total mutt, but I think he was also part collie. And maybe part golden retriever. But he was deﬁnitely at least half mutt. Scout was supposed to be the whole family’s dog, but he was really mine. I mean, after school, it was me he would be waiting for. And when anyone threw his ball, I’m the one he always brought it back to. And at night, it was always my bed he slept in. But before we moved here, my Mom found out we weren’t allowed to have any pets, so we had to give him away to my cousins. I don’t really talk about it, but sometimes I dream about Scout. He’s got his ball in his mouth and he’s looking for me. And I’m saying, “Here, Scout. I’m right here.” But he doesn’t hear me, and he can’t see me, and I’m saying, “I’m right here. Scout. I’m right here.” And then, I don’t know, I guess I wake up . . . I don’t know if Scout dreams about me.

Monologue 5-

**GUMMY BEARS**

The difference between thinking about having no school all summer and actually having no school all summer is like the difference between thinking about Gummy Bears and actually eating them. I mean, when you think about Gummy Bears and imagine eating them, it’s so easy to remember how sweet they are. And how chewy. And that they’re really, really good. I mean Gummy Bears are REALLY good. But the truth is, the only thing that imagining eating Gummy Bears does for you is make you even hungrier for Gummy Bears. But on the other hand, imagining not having school all summer . . . I mean, actually not having school all summer . . . I forget what I was gonna say . . . Does anyone have any Gummy Bears?

Monologue 6-

**RIDE**

(Your character is riding a roller coaster and not liking it at all. These are the thoughts that are going through your character’s mind. NOTE: For this monologue, you should be sitting in a chair. Make sure to use your body to show when the coaster is going up and when it’s going down.) (Going up.) Omigod, omigod, omigod, omigod. I don’t know why I ever got on this thing. I hate roller coasters. I’ve always hated roller coasters. I should never have listened to what Chris said. Whoa – here come’s the top and – AAAAGH! (Going down fast.) How is this fun? This is not fun. This is no fun at all. AAAAGH! (Going up.) Omigod, omigod, omigod, omigod, we’re going up again. And we’re going higher. And we’re going higher. Why don’t they have a stop in the middle of this thing to let people out? That would be a good idea. They should have – AAAAGH! (Going down fast.) Just hold on. Just hold on. Just hold on. AAAAGH! WE’RE ALL GONNA DIE! (Levelling off.) OK, OK, OK, we’re slowing down. We’re on the ground. We’re slowing down. We’re stopping. Yes. Yes. Yes. It’s over. (To a friend in the coaster next to you.) What? Yeah, really fun. Let’s go home.

Monologue 7-

**BROCCOLI**

Why does broccoli even exist? For one thing, it’s gross. For another thing, it’s disgusting. And for a third thing, it’s ugly. Well, someone has to say it. Broccoli is ugly. Like, think about French fries. French fries are a vegetable too. But they’re not gross . . . unless they’re cold. And they’re totally not ugly. I mean, hello – they’re golden. In what universe is gold not a good thing? And did I mention broccoli tastes bad? Yeah, basically broccoli has nothing at all going for it. Except that my Mom likes it. And tries to make me eat it. Did I mention that broccoli is disgusting?

Monologue 8-

**SILENCE**

(Your character is reading a book and talking to an unseen person nearby who just won’t stop talking. Begin by reading the book silently. After a few moments, without looking up, hold up your hand in a “Stop” gesture towards the unseen person and begin the monologue.)

Stop talking. Just stop talking . . . No . . . Nope . . . Un unh. (Lower your hand and continue reading for a few moments, then look up at the unseen person.) I’m sorry, did you say something? . . . That’s what I thought. Don’t. (Go back to reading the book for several moments. When you speak again, don’t look up.) You know, I can see your mouth moving. And I can hear sounds coming out of it. That must mean you’re talking. Remember that part where I said, Don’t? Well, don’t. (Reading the book for several more moments. Close the book and look up.) OK, I’m ﬁnished. Hey – where are you going? . . . Well, it’s not like I . . . What?!? . . . Fine . . . Gah! Some people are so sensitive.

Monologue 9-

**TRUST**

My uncle says there are two kinds of people. People you can trust and people you can’t trust. The people you can trust are the ones you know are out to get you. The people you can’t trust are the ones you don’t know if they’re out to get you or not. Undependable, I guess.

When I grow up, I want to be just like my uncle. He’s super smart. And really, really rich. He’s so rich that he always has a bunch of people around him just to do whatever he says. Some of them will even do whatever he says before he says it. And he’s got three houses. Three! And he hardly ever lives in any of them. So I know he must be right about the not-trusting-people thing. The only thing is, if he is right, how I do I know I can trust what he says?

Monologue 10-

**DIARY**

(Your character is writing in a diary.)

Dear Diary. Today was the worst day of my whole life. Everyone was mean to me. At recess, I stepped in a puddle in my brand new sneakers. When I got home, I saw that my goldﬁsh had died. And then my brother stole my allowance. It was so bad that if I could go back and change everything, I’d . . . (Stop. Think a moment. Start to smile. Now, as you re-read your diary entry out loud, you’ll be crossing out the bad things you’ve just written and writing in good things in their place.) Dear Diary. Today was the . . . (Cross out “worst” and write in a new word.) . . . best day of my whole life. Everyone was . . . (Cross out the old “bad” thing and write in the new good one.) . . . really, really nice to me, because they like me so much. At recess, I stepped in a puddle . . . (Cross out the old “bad” thing. Think a moment, then write.) . . . of diamonds. (Think another moment, then write again.) . . . And rubies. In my brand new sneakers. Which everyone said were the best sneakers ever. When I got home, I saw that my goldﬁsh had died . . . (Write.) . . . after being abducted by aliens. And then my brother stole my allowance. But he got caught by Mom and Dad, and they told him that they were ashamed of him and that he is the worst brother in the world. And then they sent him to his room and told him not to come out until he is as smart, good-looking, fun and likeable as me . . . The . . . end.

Monologue 11-

FROG

So every year after summer ends, they make everybody in the whole class get up and talk about what they did all summer. Not all at once. Like one at a time. Booooring. And embarrassing. I don’t even know what’s worse, having to listen to everyone else’s lame summer or having to stand up there in front of everyone else and talk about my own incredibly lame summer. Seriously. I have to stand up there and say things like, “And then one day, my Dad took us all ﬁshing and I caught a frog!” Whatever. (Pause.) You want to know about my summer? Fine. Monday, woke up. Went to bed. Tuesday, woke up. Went to bed. Wednesday, woke up, had a ﬁght with my brother, was sent to bed.

But then one day, my Dad really did take us ﬁshing, at this pond over in Maguire Park and this stupid frog somehow wound up getting stuck on my hook. And this . . . this stupid frog, he was like, gasping. Like screaming without any sounds coming out. And his eyes were really wide open, and he was just looking at me, like, I don’t know, like “how could you do this?” Or like, “help me.” Or, I don’t know, like, “all I wanted was a nice day in the park, too.” And my little brother was crying. And my Mom was yelling at my Dad to do something. And my Dad said, “It’s OK, Jess.” And he pulled the frog off the hook and put him on the ground, and I saw the frog, like, hop away a little bit funny, but I think he was OK . . . I’m pretty sure he was OK. And then the next day, I got up, had a ﬁght with my brother, and was sent to bed early.

Monologue 12-

**PROBLEM**

I have a drinking problem . . . When I drink, I pee. And that’s a problem. The thing is, though, that I love to drink. Orange soda. Grape soda. Ginger ale. Coke. Pepsi . . . Orange juice. Apple juice. I love the juice. Last week, we went on a ﬁeld trip to, like, an hour away by bus. I knew I shouldn’t have drunk two Cokes before we got on the bus, but I did it anyway. Maybe halfway there, I really had to pee. I mean really had to pee. And I said to Mrs. McCready, “I really have to pee.” She said, “Can you hold it?” And I said, “No. I think I waited too long to tell you. I have to go now.” So, in front of the whole class, she says to the bus driver, “We need to pull over. Taylor has to pee.” I thought I was gonna die. If I didn’t explode ﬁrst. When I got back on the bus, everyone was laughing. You better believe I only drank one Coke on the way back.