

Master Your Monologue with Mary Bennett

Put The Action To The Word and The Word To The Action

Grades 6 – 8

Performing a monologue provides an opportunity to understand the nuances of performing a character and allows the actor to gain a deeper understanding of the Who, What, When, Where, Why, How of that character. Through this process we often develop deeper empathy for others.

Materials: 5 pieces of blank paper and pencils, colored pencils are a bonus. If students use a journal even better.

The Lesson:

We will identify objectives, tactics, action verbs, beats and scoring in a scrip and memorizing technique to make learning, memorizing, and performing a script more enjoyable and powerful in performance.

- Meet The Actor
- What Is A Monologue
- Choosing The Monologue
- Where To Find A Monologue
- The Monologue Arc
- Depth Of Knowledge - Who, What, When, Where, Why, How.
- Character Development & Text Work (Downloadable PDF)
- Tactics/Action Verbs and How To Use Them
- Memorization Tips
- Learning Styles
- Blocking, Beats and Builds
- Monologue Performance - Emelia (Othello)

Connection to the Nevada Academic Content Standards for the Fine Arts

- Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic work and ideas.
- Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.
- Responding: Understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning.
- Connecting: Relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context.

6th Grade: Key Ideas & Details:

1. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
2. Determine a central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details: Provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgement.
3. Analyze in detail how a key individual, event, or idea is introduced, illustrated, and elaborated in a text (e.g., through examples or antidotes).

Connection to Literacy: Understanding and performing a monologue provides an opportunity for an individual to understand not only the nuances of performing a character, but allows for depth of knowledge and empathy of another person's journey. It also brings confidence, preparation and the authentic self to speaking and performing in front of others.

Resources

<https://monologueblogger.com/1-minute-monologues-for-teens/>

About the Artist

Mary Bennett

Mary Bennett is currently the Producing Artistic Director of Brūka Theatre (Reno) and The Carson City Ghost Walk. She is an actor/playwright/director/producer/theatre maker and sometimes referred to as "that woman". Her one-woman original show: *Dorothy Parker ... Shivering and Sighing* won Best of The San Francisco Fringe Festival and toured nationally. Her stage training and performances include: The American Conservatory Theatre – San Francisco, Bay Area TheatreSports (BATS), Dell Arte' International Theatre Company, New York Stage & Film, B Street Theatre, Brūka Theatre, GLM Theatre Company, The Reno Philharmonic, Reno Jazz Orchestra, Sierra Nevada Ballet, New York Stage & Film, Lake Tahoe Shakespeare Festival and The Missoula Children's Theatre. Film performances include *Sister Act*, *Dear George*, and *Nowhere Nevada*. She is also a voiceover artist.

Mary is a Kennedy Center trained teaching artist and works as an arts integration specialist. She is theatre artist in residence with Nevada Arts Council and Sierra Arts Foundation. She enjoys advocacy, writing poetry, essay & short stories, and historical research. Mary is currently developing a middle school drama program at Doral Academy, working on a radio style adaptation of *The Yellow Wallpaper* for Brūka Theatre, co - creating & performing a living art piece for The Nevada Museum of Art's Show: *Victorian Radicals*, recording books of great artists designed for a young audience with Sierra Arts Foundation and teaching virtually.

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Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster

The Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster is an online resource for schools, organizations and communities seeking to engage teaching artists. Roster artists are experienced in collaborating with schools and communities to conduct arts learning and cultural experiences in, through and about the arts.

Explore the roster at <https://www.nvartscouncil.org/rosters/teaching-artists/>