

## SOURCE LIST

*Drama II Classical Monologues*

**Choose a piece of text from any of the following source material.**

**Your monologue should be approximately 1 minute in length.** (As a gauge, 1 minute = about half a page of classical text, or 1 recitation of a Shakespearean sonnet.)

We will go over how to choose a monologue next class (1/18). So if you are not sure where to start, read some of the plays' summaries, and choose 1 or 2 characters that interest you.

- **Shakespeare's Sonnets:** <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/Poetry/sonnets.html>
- **Text from any of Shakespeare's plays:** <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/>
- **Oedipus Rex, Antigone, Ajax** by Sophocles
- **Medea** by Euripides

There are many translations of the Greek plays that can be uncovered with a quick internet search; choose one with classical, not modernized text.

**Do NOT choose:**

- Text you have performed before
- Greek plays NOT on this list
- Anything from The Canterbury Tales

## WHY MONOLOGUES?

- Each student is free to work at his or her own pace without needing others to rehearse.
- The monologue is raw material that the student may use to apply and practice numerous theatre techniques learned in class this session.
- Students will practice textual analysis-- a hugely important aspect of all academic pursuits.
- Every single student can benefit from the exercise of speaking alone before an audience with a prepared piece.
- The monologue is the actor's laboratory: a small, controlled, manageable chunk that will soon grow familiar. When learning anatomy, one first dissects a worm or a frog. No one starts out by operating on a human body. The monologue is the actor's worm. :) It is the launchpad, the model, the "flight simulator", for a full play and for all other theatrical pursuits.

Students will NOT be performing monologues for the Spring Showcase. The Showcase's Drama segment will be discussed later.

A monologue is NOT a single person talking to himself.  
A monologue is a *dialogue* with a silent, unseen partner.