



The Taming of the Shrew Understanding Monologues and Soliloquies

1. Define *monologue*:

2. Define *soliloquy*:

3. Read Act 4, scene 1, lines 131–147. Is it a monologue or a soliloquy? How do you know? Why did Shakespeare choose to convey the speech in the way he did?

4. Read Act 5, scene 2, lines 145–188. Is it a monologue or a soliloquy? How do you know? Why did Shakespeare choose to convey the speech in the way he did?

Answer Key

Sample Student Responses

1. Define *monologue*:

a speech delivered by a character to other characters or to the audience directly

2. Define *soliloquy*:

a speech delivered by a character to only himself or herself

3. Read Act 4, scene 1, lines 131–147. Is it a monologue or a soliloquy? How do you know? Why did Shakespeare choose to convey the speech in the way he did?

It is a soliloquy; Petruchio is alone on the stage; no one else will know of Petruchio's plan to "tame" his wife.

4. Read Act 5, scene 2, lines 145–188. Is it a monologue or a soliloquy? How do you know? Why did Shakespeare choose to convey the speech in the way he did?

It is a monologue; Katherine is speaking to the other characters present on stage. Katherine is saying what Petruchio wants to hear, but it is unclear whether she truly means what she says because there are other people there.