**The *Mockingbird* Monologues Project**

For our next major assignment, you will be assuming the identity of one character from Harper Lee’s novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A monologue is a composition in which one single character speaks alone toward an audience. You will write a monologue for your character—somewhat like a missing scene, but the only person speaking will be your character. The goal is to show the audience what your character was really thinking inside when certain events from the novel happened.

You get to choose what your character says and the underlying circumstances for the monologue (when, where, and why your character says what s/he does). You even get to make up a backstory that sheds new light on your character—just so long as the new facts you add do not contradict the facts presented in the novel.

Let your mind explore your character’s deepest secrets, desires, and fears. Get under his/her skin and crawl around in it.

**Assignment Criteria:**

* Your monologue must be 2 full pages, double-spaced, in 12-point *Times New Roman* font.
* Your monologue must be told in the first person point of view, as if you are that character. (For example, if your character is Aunt Alexandra, do not write, “Aunt Alexandra wants Scout to dress more like a girl.” Instead, write something like, “I just don’t understand why a pretty young thing like Jean Louise would run around dressed like a boy in overalls. Doesn’t she want to be a lady? I’ll have to talk some sense into Atticus about the way he raises those children.”)
* Your monologue must reflect your character’s life story, as told in the novel and as supplemented by you, including but not limited to the following: diction, voice, clothing, lifestyle, age, career or other community role, socioeconomic background, etc. While you may add new information to create a rounder character, you may not contradict anything in the novel.
* You will be responsible for outfitting your character during your performance.

**Final monologue due: TBD.**

Character List

1. Scout (Jean Louise) Finch: Narrator of the story. The story takes place from the time Scout is aged 6 to 9, but she tells the story as an adult. Scout is a tomboy who would rather solve problems with her fists than with her head. Throughout the course of the book, Scout comes to a new understanding of human nature, societal expectations, and her own place in the world.
2. Jem (Jeremy) Finch: cout's older brother who ages from 10 to 13 during the story. He is Scout's protector and one of her best friends. As part of reaching young adulthood, Jem deals with many difficult issues throughout the story.
3. Atticus Finch: Maycomb attorney and state legislative representative who is assigned to represent Tom Robinson. A widower, Atticus is a single parent to two children: Jem and Scout
4. Francis Hancock: Aunt Alexandra's grandson. He taunts Scout about Atticus, getting her in trouble.
5. Alexandra Finch: Atticus' sister. Aunt Alexandra lives at Finch's Landing, the Finch family homestead, but she moves in with Atticus and the children during Tom Robinson's trial. She is very concerned that Scout have a feminine influence to emulate.
6. Uncle Jack Finch: Atticus and Aunt Alexandra's bachelor brother who comes to visit every Christmas. He is a doctor who, like Atticus, was schooled at home.
7. Calpurnia: The Finchs' African American housekeeper. She grew up at Finch's Landing and moved with Atticus to Maycomb. She is the closest thing to a mother that Scout and Jem have. One of the few Negroes in town who can read and write, she teaches Scout to write.
8. Zeebo: The town garbage collector who is also Calpurnia's son. He's one of four people who can read at the First Purchase African M.E. Church.
9. Arthur (Boo) Radley: The mysterious neighbor who piques the children's interest. They've never seen him and make a game of trying to get him to come outside.
10. Mr. Radley: Boo and Nathan Radley's parents.
11. Mrs. Radley: Boo and Nathan Radley's parents.
12. Nathan Radley: Boo Radley's brother who comes back to live with the family when Mr. Radley dies.
13. Dill (Charles Baker) Harris: Jem and Scout's neighborhood friend. Living in Meridian, Mississippi, Dill spends every summer with his aunt, Miss Rachel Haverford.
14. Miss Rachel Haverford: Dill's aunt who lives next door to the Finches.
15. Miss Maudie Atkinson: One of Maycomb's most open-minded citizens, Miss Maudie lives across the street from Jem and Scout. An avid gardener, she often spends time talking with the children — especially Scout — helping them to better understand Atticus and their community.
16. Miss Stephanie Crawford: The neighborhood gossip.
17. Mrs. Grace Merriweather: A devout Methodist, Mrs. Merriweather writes the Halloween pageant.
18. Mrs. Henry Lafayette Dubose: A cantankerous, vile, elderly woman who teaches Jem and Scout a great lesson in bravery.
19. Mrs. Gertrude Farrow: The "second most devout lady in Maycomb" belongs to the local Missionary Society.
20. Tom Robinson: The black man who is accused of raping and beating Mayella Ewell.
21. Helen Robinson: Tom Robinson's wife.
22. Link Deas: Tom and Helen Robinson's employer. He makes sure that Helen can pass safely by the Ewells' after Tom is arrested.
23. Bob Ewell: The Ewell patriarch, Bob Ewell spends his welfare checks on alcohol. He claims to have witnessed Tom attacking Mayella.
24. Mayella Violet Ewell: Tom's 19-year-old accuser.
25. Burris Ewell: One of Bob Ewell's children. He attends school only one day a year.
26. Reverend Sykes: The pastor at First Purchase African M.E. Church. He helps Jem and Scout understand Tom's trial and finds seats for them in the "colored balcony."
27. Judge John Taylor: The judge at Tom's trial. He appoints Atticus to represent Tom.
28. Mr. Horace Gilmer: The state attorney representing the Ewells.
29. Sheriff Heck Tate: Tate Maycomb's sheriff who accompanies Atticus to kill the mad dog and who delivers the news about Bob Ewell.
30. Mr. Braxton Bragg Underwood: The owner, editor, and printer of The Maycomb Tribune. Although he openly dislikes blacks, he defends Tom's right to a fair trial.
31. Dolphus Raymond: Father to several biracial children, Mr. Raymond lives on the outskirts of town. When he comes into Maycomb, he pretends to be drunk.
32. Walter Cunningham, Sr: One of the men who comes to lynch Tom Robinson, he's also one of Atticus' clients. After speaking with Scout, he calls off the mob.
33. Walter Cunningham Jr: One of Scout's classmates. Jem invites him to have lunch with them after Scout accosts Walter on the playground.
34. Cecil Jacobs: A schoolmate of the Finch children, he scares Jem and Scout on the way to the Halloween pageant.
35. Miss Caroline Fisher: New to teaching and to Maycomb and its ways, Miss Caroline is Scout's first grade teacher.
36. Little Chuck Little : One of Scout's classmates who stands up to Burris Ewell in defense of Miss Caroline.
37. Miss Gates: Scout's second grade teacher.
38. Lula: A parishioner at First Purchase African M.E. Church who is upset when Scout and Jem attend services there.
39. Eula May: The local telephone operator.
40. Mr. Avery: A boarder at the house across from Mrs. Dubose's. **Brainstorming Worksheet**

**1. Internal Conflicts:** What are some internal battles your character is fighting? What are two possible decisions they might make, or two people pulling them two different ways?

**VS.**

**a.**

**b.**

**c.**

**2. Time Machine**: What is your character thinking preoccupied with now, and how do these thoughts and struggles connect to something in their past?

**Past Memories Present Struggles**

**3. Desires:** For each point on the star, write one thing your character deeply desires.

**4. The Element of Surprise!** For each point on the lightning bolt, come up with a surprising secret, or a discovery the character could make about him/herself, or something hidden s/he could reveal to the audience. **(It could be a big or a small surprise.)**

**Pre-writing Worksheet**

**1. Setting**: Where will your character be? Why did you choose this setting?

**2. Content:** What will your character talk about?

**3. “The Hook”:** How will you grab the audience’s attention? What might your first few lines be?

**4. “The Heart”**: Why is your character talking? Why now? What is s/he trying to think through?

**5. “The Soul”:** How do you plan to show your character’s innermost thoughts and feelings? How do you want the audience to see your character and to understand his/her actions?

**6. Additional brainstorming information before you begin writing:**

**Historical Accuracy Worksheet**

All of the details you include in your monologue must be historically accurate. *To Kill a Mockingbird* takes place during the 1930s in Maycomb, Alabama (a fictional town). In class today, use the Internet to research what life was like in that time and place. Take notes about what you find. Here are some categories of information to guide you:

**People**

**Events**

**Popular Culture** (movies, music, magazines, fashion trends, etc.)

**Miscellaneous Information**

**Grading Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Standard** | **Does not meet standard** | **Meets standard**  **(80)** | **Exceeds standard** |
| **Content:** *The monologue…* | | | |
| …is consistent with and reinforced by text. | -2 |  | +4 |
| …develops images, ideas, feelings, and trains of thought rather than just reviewing facts or listing opinions. | -2 |  | +4 |
| …adds depth and insight to understanding of character. | -2 |  | +4 |
| …has natural diction and syntax within character’s voice and accent. | -2 |  | +2 |
| **Performance:** | | | |
| Performer makes good use of the stage, with blocking, body movement, and facial expressions effectively conveying character thoughts and emotions. | -2 |  | +2 |
| Rhythm, tone, and accent are consistent with character. | -2 |  | +2 |
| Costuming creatively and effectively conveys character. | -2 |  | +2 |
| **Comments:** |  |  |  |
| **Monologue Grade:** | | | |
|  | | | |