



SHAKESPEARE: PERFORMING YOUR SPEECH (SECONDARY)

Performing a Shakespeare monologue or duologue

#esufestivalofspeaking

Plan - choose your speech

Students are encouraged to explore Shakespeare’s plays and select a speech which calls out to them and seems to connect with their own experiences or, indeed, one from a play that they have studied in school or seen performed. Boys can play the part of girls and vice versa. There is no need to worry about costumes or props as it is better to concentrate on the acting.

Practise

Students should seek to develop their performance by bringing vocal and/or physical skills to bear on their interpretation of character and situation.

Students should think about the use of these vocal skills:

- pace (rhythm, pauses)
- accent
- inflection
- intonation
- pitch
- projection

The following physical and technical skills should also be considered:

- movement (pace, stillness)
- body language
- facial expression
- gesture

Introducing the performance

Before the extract is acted, it would be wonderful if students would introduce the piece which they have chosen with some details of the play and the scene selected. This introduction could be up to two minutes and might include:

- the details of the play and scene selected;
- the name of the character(s) they are playing;
- an answer to the question ‘I/We chose this piece because’;
- what they aim to show/achieve by the way they play the scene.

The performance

The acting should be no longer than three minutes, so that the whole piece is, ideally, no longer than five minutes in total.

Post

Our “How to make an effective video guide offers” help and tips for recording and uploading the performance.

Plan. Practise. Perform. Post!

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