

Plays often include these types of **dramatic speeches**:

- **Soliloquy**: a long speech in which a character—usually alone onstage—expresses his or her true thoughts or feelings. Soliloquies are unheard by other characters.
- **Aside**: a character revealing his or her true thoughts or feelings in a brief remark that is unheard by other characters
- **Monologue**: a long speech by one person. Unlike a soliloquy, a monologue is addressed to one or more other characters.

A Circle the letter of the type of dramatic speech described in each item.

1. Romeo gives a long speech to the Friar, pouring out his feelings for Juliet.
A. monologue B. soliloquy C. aside
2. After her mother exits, and she is alone, Juliet gives a long speech expressing her worries about taking a sleeping potion that will make her appear dead.
A. monologue B. soliloquy C. aside

B Read the following summaries of characters' speeches. Then, in the space provided, identify the type of dramatic speech the summary refers to: *soliloquy*, *aside*, or *monologue*.

1. _____ Tyrone's father asks him how the fight between Tyrone's hockey team and their opponents started at the game last night. Tyrone gives an angry and emotional speech, telling in detail how name-calling from both sides led to a general free-for-all.
2. _____ In a mystery drama, Glen, alone on stage, tries to deal with a difficult problem. In a speech, he describes hearing his sister and her husband planning a crime. Glen knows he should call in the police, but he expresses fears about hurting his family's good name and seeing his dear sister and brother-in-law go to prison.
3. _____ In a comedy about a family on camping trip, the father leads the others into a dark forest and loses his way. One of the children looks at the audience and says, "Uh oh, here we go again!"

A Circle the correct answer to each question.

1. Which of the following describes an aside?
 - A. a character expressing his or her true thoughts or feelings in a short remark that is not heard by other characters
 - B. a long speech by a character alone onstage, expressing thoughts and feelings
 - C. a long speech given by one person and addressed to other characters
2. Which of the following describes a monologue?
 - A. a character expressing his or her true thoughts or feelings in a short remark that is not heard by other characters
 - B. a long speech by a character alone on stage, expressing thoughts and feelings
 - C. a long speech given by one person and addressed to other characters
3. Which of the following describes a soliloquy?
 - A. a character expressing his or her true thoughts or feelings in a short remark that is not heard by other characters
 - B. a long speech by a character alone on stage, expressing thoughts and feelings
 - C. a long speech given by one person and addressed to other characters

B Read the following summaries of characters' speeches in *Romeo and Juliet*. Then, in the space provided, identify the type of dramatic speech the summary refers to: *soliloquy*, *aside*, or *monologue*.

1. _____ Romeo has threatened to stab himself. In a long speech, Friar Lawrence criticizes Romeo and advises him to count his blessings.
2. _____ Juliet has told the Nurse she is on her way to Friar Lawrence to make her confession. After the Nurse leaves, Juliet, alone on the stage, pours out her feelings of dislike for the Nurse.
3. _____ Lady Capulet refers to Romeo as a villain. Without Lady Capulet hearing her, Juliet says that he may be a villain but no other man makes her heart ache so.

Dramatic irony is a contradiction between what a character thinks and says and what you know to be true. For instance, in Act III of *Romeo and Juliet*, Capulet plans Juliet's wedding to Paris. He does not know what you know: Juliet is already married to Romeo.

Dramatic irony involves you emotionally in the story. It produces suspense, or a feeling of tension. You wonder when the character will find out what you already know.

A Write *DI* for each item that describes a case of dramatic irony. Write *NDI* for each item that does not contain dramatic irony.

1. _____ In a play, the character Kayla is searching for her long-lost brother. She asks for help from George. The two have a few adventures as they search. At the end of the play, they find a box of old papers and photographs. Examining these papers and photographs, they realize that George is Kayla's lost brother.
2. _____ In a play, John is the king's favorite son. When John is alone, the audience sees him put on a mask and ride in disguise to another kingdom nearby. There, he steals horses and destroys crops. The next day, people from the nearby kingdom complain to the king. The king tells them that he will find whoever is responsible and put him in jail forever. He does not realize he is talking about his own favorite son.

B For the following example of dramatic irony, explain the difference between what a character thinks or knows about the situation and what you know.

In a play, Sally and Linda are sisters. Troops invade their city, and Sally falls injured on the street. As the audience watches, an old woman opens her door and pulls Sally inside. Later, Linda comes looking for Sally. She stops at the old woman's house. She is about to knock. Just then, a friend runs up to her and says, "I think we may have found Sally at the hospital!" Linda leaves without knocking on the old woman's door.

What I Know _____

What the Character Knows or Thinks _____

A Circle the correct answer to each question.

1. Which is the best definition of dramatic irony?

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| <p>A. an emotional story filled with suspense</p> <p>B. when the audience knows something that a character does not</p> | <p>C. drama written to point out problems in society</p> <p>D. drama in which the main character suffers</p> |
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2. What is one likely effect of dramatic irony?

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| <p>A. a feeling of suspense or tension</p> <p>B. an unhappy ending</p> | <p>C. a case of mistaken identity</p> <p>D. a happy ending</p> |
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B Write *DI* for each item that describes a case of dramatic irony. Write *NDI* for each item that does not contain dramatic irony.

- _____ In a play, a husband and wife discuss owning a pet. The wife leaves. When the husband is alone onstage, he tells the audience that he will surprise his wife by buying her a dog. After he goes offstage, his wife comes onstage and says that she will surprise her husband by buying him a cat.
- _____ In a play, Karl works late every night on his novel. Then, he falls in love with Carol. Carol does not like his novel or the fact that he writes. Karl decides he will no longer write. He sends his novel to a publisher and forgets all about it. He tries to convince Carol to marry him, but she refuses. Finally, Carol breaks up with him. Karl is very unhappy. That same day, he gets a letter telling him that his novel is being published.

C In the following example of dramatic irony, explain the difference between what a character thinks or knows about the situation and what you know.

In a play, Princess Karen decides to trade places with her maid, Terry. Terry will pretend to be the princess, and Karen will pretend to be the maid. The two travel to a foreign city. There, the prince falls in love with Karen. Karen is still pretending to be a maid, so the prince is worried. His father will not allow him to marry a maid, only a princess.

What I Know _____

What the Character Knows or Thinks _____