

UTE » Sharing English Literature: Reading and Discussion Practice

Lesson15. February 18th,2025. The Duke and the Duchess. The use of characterisation in R. Browning's My Last Duchess.

PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF A D MONOLOGUE

DEFINITIONS

Monologue: A monologue is a lengthy speech by a single character.

Soliloquy: In a play when a character utters a speech that expresses his or her private thoughts and feelings. It is a soliloquy.

Dramatic Monologue: A dramatic monologue is a speech by a single character in a play, poem, or story, in which the speaker expresses his mind in the presence of another person, with the intention of convincing him of his beliefs and convictions.

The Duke and the Duchess: characterisation.

- How does the reader perceive the Duchess? Is he/she free to have a personal opinion of the character? If yes, how? If no, why?
- How has Robert Browning used language to create the two characters' personalities?
- How does the poem structure enhance the Duke's control over the narrative?
- What is the role of the listener in the economy of the monologue? What is his function in the economy of the monologue?
- There are speechless characters in the monologue. What is the function of such poetic device?
- What disturbed the Duke about the Duchess?
- Is R. Browning interested in the Duchess? If yes, why? If not, why?
- What does art represent in the monologue?
- How is art connected to the Duchess?
- What is the role of the extensive use of run-on-line? What does it contribute to?
- Do you believe the monologue well represents the Victorian mentality?
- Do you think there is a specific reason why the poet set the monologue in the Italian Renaissance?
- Discuss the potential of the dramatic monologue with reference to the text.

To settle any controversy about the sources of the text consider [the linked file](#)

- [The Dramatic Monologue](#)

- [Features](#)

STEP 2B

[Watch and reflect](#)

HOMEWORK

- Watch and listen
- Consider the overall text and say if you find it relevant for today's contemporary society
- [Read the article](#) and [Read the report](#)

