THE ESSENTIAL SHAKESPEARE MONOLOGUE CHEAT SHEET

**Break It Down**

First break it down into chunks. Remember that this piece of writing has chunks - segments and sections which help to tell the story of the monologue. Break down your monologue into the following chunks.

THE HOOK

Each Shakespeare monologue starts with a question, a problem, a task to undertake. The opening line, what director Adrian Noble calls the ‘Headline’. This is where the story starts and grabs the audience’s attention. It starts on the first line and is designed to intrigue the audience.

FIRST JOURNEY

Whatever question, problem or task is undertaken in the Hook is explore in this next chunk. Usually, the dramatic tension drops for a while and then starts to build as we head towards the...

TURNING POINT

Usually found towards the middle of the speech, here the direction of the story takes a turning. A turning or tipping point which delights the listener as it starts to head off in a different direction from the one initially started in the hook.

SECOND JOURNEY

In this chunk, we are decreasing tension from the Turning Point, as we explore the change the Turning Point provoked. This builds to the...

CLIMAX

The moment of make or break in the story starts in the Hook. The ‘will-she/won’t-she’ moment. It is at this point, the question, problem, or task posed reaches its decision point.

RESOLUTION

One way or another, the decision is made and a final resolution to the question, problem or task posed in the Hook.