

**The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet, Act III**, by William Shakespeare**Literary Analysis: Dramatic Speeches**

Characters in plays often deliver these types of **dramatic speeches**:

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

Characters often add meaning to speeches by making **allusions**—references to well-known people, places, or events from mythology or literature. For example, in Act II, Mercutio insultingly calls Tybalt “Prince of Cats,” alluding to a cat named Tybalt in French fables.

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the questions that follow about an aside, a soliloquy, a monologue, and an allusion.

1. In Scene v, Juliet’s mother refers to Romeo as a villain. In an aside, Juliet says, “Villain and he be many miles asunder.” What is the effect of this aside? Why do you think Shakespeare wrote just the one remark as an aside?

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2. In Scene v, Capulet delivers a monologue when he discovers that Juliet has rejected the match with Paris. Reread lines 177–197. What makes this speech a monologue?

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3. Why is it important for Juliet and the others to hear Capulet’s monologue?

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4. At the close of Scene v, Juliet delivers a soliloquy. Reread lines 237–244. What makes these last eight lines a soliloquy?

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5. Explain Juliet’s allusion to Greek mythology in the opening lines of Scene ii.

Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds,  
Toward Phoebus’ lodging!

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