

Literary Analysis

SHAKESPEAREAN TRAGEDY: SOLILOQUIES AND ASIDES

Characters in Shakespearean tragedies often reveal their private thoughts through **soliloquies**, long speeches to themselves or the audience, or **asides**, shorter speeches that the other characters cannot hear.

Directions: Use this chart to record the soliloquies and asides in Act One that provide insight into the characters that speak them. An example has been done for you.

Scene, Lines	Soliloquy or Aside?	Insight
Scene 3, lines 117–120	Aside	Macbeth wants the throne; he believes the witches’ prophecies.