

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF DIALOGUE?


helps develop CHARACTERS

WHICH IS CALLED...?

CHARACTERIZATION

(think, the "S" in STEAL)

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- ▶ Characters should talk to SHOW instead of TELL the story.
 - ▶ You may use slang, dialect, and various types of formal/ informal language to show what your characters are like.
 - ▶ Make sure it sounds natural for the characters speaking.
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POINTS OF EMPHASIS

- ▶ Have it advance the plot or development of the character.
- ▶ Don't write long blocks of speech (it may bore your reader).
- ▶ Don't distract your readers with too many tags like "he said" and "she said". These are called "framing clauses" and are used to show how the dialogue is spoken.

HOW TO USE QUOTATION MARKS...

- ▶ Direct quotes must be put in quotation marks.
- ▶ When changing speakers, start a new paragraph and indent ½ inch.
- ▶ Punctuation for dialogue always goes inside the closing quotation marks.
- ▶ When a quotation is followed by a framing clause such as “he said” or “she responded,” do not end the quotation with a period. Use a comma, exclamation point, or question mark instead. The framing clause should not be capitalized.
- ▶ Use single quotation marks, to denote a quotation within a quotation (when a character quotes someone else).
- ▶ When in doubt about punctuating dialogue, reference any novel or story for an example of how it’s correctly done!

THERE ARE 10 ERRORS – FIX THEM

“I refuse to do your laundry my mother announced, until you have cleaned your room.”

“but I cleaned it just a few days ago” I responded.

“Try a few years ago she remarked sarcastically.”

“But I’ve been busy”

Well, ‘I’ve been busy,’ too!” she whined. She sounded remarkably like me.

“I refuse to do your laundry,” my mother announced, “until you have cleaned your room.”

“But I cleaned it just a few days ago,” I responded.

“Try a few years ago,” she remarked sarcastically.” (delete)

“But I’ve been busy!”

“Well, ‘I’ve been busy,’ too!” she whined. She sounded remarkably like me.

PRACTICE

1. With fear in his eyes, Cole whispered I see dead people.
2. I think you're gonna need a bigger boat mumbled the captain.
3. My mama always said life was like a box of chocolates. Forrest drawled, as he popped a chocolate into his mouth. You never know what you're gonna get.
4. Leaping atop the bow of the ship, Jack raised his arms to the sky and shouted I'm the king of the world!
5. Just smile and wave boys, the penguin muttered, trying not to look suspicious, smile and wave.

PROPERLY FORMAT THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE AS IF IT WERE IN A STORY. ADD PROPER PUNCTUATION AND FRAMING CLAUSES.

Donkey: Can I stay with you? Please?

Shrek: Of course.

Donkey: Really?

Shrek: NO.

Donkey: Please. I don't wanna go back there. You don't know what it's like to be considered a freak... Well, maybe you do, but that's why we gotta stick together. You gotta let me stay!

ANSWERS

1. With fear in his eyes, Cole whispered, “I see dead people.”
2. “I think you’re gonna need a bigger boat,” mumbled the captain.
3. “My mama always said life was like a box of chocolates,” Forrest drawled, as he popped a chocolate into his mouth. “You never know what you’re gonna get.”
4. Leaping atop the bow of the ship, Jack shouted, “I’m the king of the world!”
5. “Just smile and wave boys,” the penguin muttered, trying not to look suspicious, “smile and wave.”

ANSWERS

“Can I stay with you? Please?” Donkey asked.

“Of course!” Shrek replied, sarcastically.

“Really?”

“No,” Shrek sternly responded.

“Please. I don’t wanna go back there. You don’t know what it’s like to be considered a freak...” Donkey paused, negotiating his previous statement, and then continued, “Well, maybe you do, but that’s why we gotta stick together. You gotta let me stay!”