

THE DETAIL IS IN THE DIALOGUE!

DIALOGUE is an important literary tool you can use to DEVELOP CHARACTER and move your STORY FORWARD. Here are some tips and tricks on how to incorporate it in your writing:

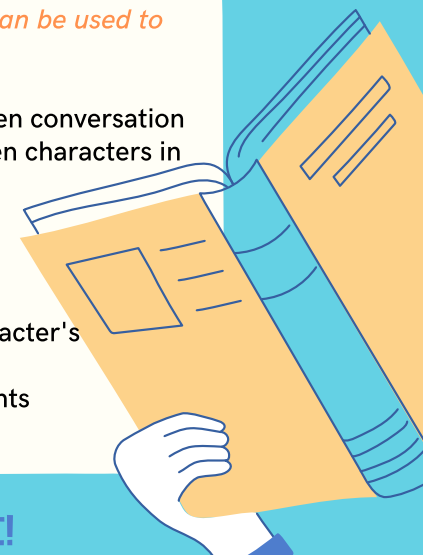
WHAT IS DIALOGUE?

Dialogue can be used to represent:

- a spoken conversation between characters in a text

OR

- a character's inner thoughts



FORMATTING RULES:

1. Quotation marks around what's spoken

Daniel said he likes pie becomes:
"I like pie," said Daniel.

2. Punctuation inside quotes

"I like pie," said Daniel.
"I like pie!" said Daniel.
"I like pie?" said Daniel.
Daniel said, "I like pie."
"I like pie," Daniel said, "but I don't love it."

3. Speaker tag present* and varied

"I like pie," Daniel _____
(ex. said, screamed, cried, sneered, shouted, etc.)

*speaker tags can be omitted to give the dialogue room to grow

4. New speaker, new paragraph

"I like pie," said Daniel.
"Well I like it more!" screamed Charlie.

5. Should develop the character!

PRACTICE!

Now it's your turn! Use the space below to see how many different ways you can write the following statement as dialogue:

Trey passed his driver's exam.

Dialogue is made up of 3 MAIN COMPONENTS:

What's being said?

"I like pie"
"Green is my favourite colour"
"What did you just say?"

Who's saying it?

"I like pie," said Daniel.
"Green is my favourite colour," said Charlie.
"What did you just say?" asked Tia.

How are they saying it?

"I like pie!" screamed Daniel.
Charlie whispered, "Green is my favourite colour..."
"What did you just say?" Tia demanded.

QUOTATIONS

SPEAKER

SPEAKER TAG