Name: _____ Block: ____



Rules for Creating Dialogue

When you write your narrative, you will be including dialogue to enhance your story. Dialogue helps a story to move forward, creates interest for the reader, and helps your reader better understand the characters you are creating.

Remember these simple rules:

- **Indent paragraphs for new speakers each time they speak (even if it's only one syllable they say).**
- **Use double quotation marks around all spoken words.**
  - *Cindy argued, "But Marsha didn't have to mow the lawn! You love her more."*

  Unless your speaker is quoting another person.
  - *Cindy argued, "But you never say, 'Go mow the lawn' to Marsha!"*
- **Use a comma to separate the dialogue tag from the dialogue.**
  - If the dialogue tag precedes the dialogue, the comma appears ***before*** the opening quotation mark: *Cindy argued, "But Marsha didn't have to mow the lawn!"*
  - If the dialogue tag comes ***after*** the dialogue, the comma appears before (inside) the closing quotation mark: *"But Marsha didn't have to mow the lawn," argued Cindy.*
  - If the dialogue ***interrupts*** the flow of a sentence of dialogue, use a pair of commas that follows the previous two rules: *"But Marsha," Cindy argued, "never has to mow the lawn!"*
- **Do not use a comma before or after the question mark or the exclamation point**
  - "When do we get to go to Disneyland?" Tim asked. "I am so bored right now!"
  - "Why did you order *a Pac-Man* machine on *EBay*?" Tim asked in disbelief.

Characterization:

- **Characters are created by a writer by writing what or how the character...**
  - SPEAKS, and what others say back to them
  - ACTS, and how others REACT to them
  - THINKS, and how those thoughts do or do not turn into action
- **Writing DIALOGUE is one of the most effective ways to bring your characters to life. To create your characters through dialogue, focus on both**
  - DIALOGUE: what they *actually* say
  - DIALOGUE TAGS: *how* they say it

Recognizing Characterization: What do you learn about each of the following characters through dialogue?

Dialogue	What can you infer about this character from the dialogue?	What can you infer about this character from the dialogue TAG?
He said, "This feels like it, boys," and passed out.		
"You lied to me," said Tara. "We did it to protect you," John whispered. Roger stepped toward Tara and reached for her hand. "We didn't want you to get hurt-" Tara pushed his hand away and turned away from them. "I thought I could trust both of you."		

Smiling, I turn back to Peter. He grins at me, and reaches across the table, taking my hand. Blood rushes to my cheeks, and I shyly look down at my plate of food. "Thanks for dinner, by the way," I say, as I twirl my hair. "No problem, babe," he replied, rubbing his thumb in small circles on the back of my hand. He exhales a long sigh, and asks, "I'm going to go get ice cream. Do you want anything?" I nod, "Yes, please. Vanilla-" "...with rainbow sprinkles," he finishes with a smile. He walks away, and I sink back in my chair.		

Now you are going to be put into small groups with your classmates and will be practicing writing dialogue. You will be given topics to write about. You will be graded on 1) if the dialogue is punctuated correctly, and 2) how well you develop characterization.

Step one: Have one person in your group create a google doc and name it:
Dialogue -Group Member's last names
example: Dialogue- SerbanSmithJonesRamirez

Step Two: Share the Google Doc with your group members and with your teacher

Step Three: Have each person type their name into the top left hand side of the document

Step Four: Choose one of the topics below and type it in as your title.

Step Five: Begin typing the dialogue.
Make sure each person is typing on their own computer. All have to contribute.
"Have a conversation" about the topic on the page using correct dialogue formatting and punctuation.

Pick one of the topics below:

1. You are telling your parents that you passed (or) failed your driving test.
2. You just got into a fender bender and are talking with the other driver about how to take care of the damages. It's your fault.
3. You are at your first job and it's the first day.
4. You are flying on a plane on your way to a dream destination.
5. You arrive home after curfew and you discover something surprising.
6. You are in the middle of an emergency situation and have to take charge.

Sample Writing

Student Name
Student Name
Student Name
Student Name

Your boyfriend is cheating on you with your best friend.

I'm sitting at a table in Souplantation on a dinner date with my boyfriend, Peter. There's a family atmosphere hanging in the air, and the smell of the sweet, warm, savory cornbread floats through the air, mixed in with about fifty different other smells. Smiling, I turn back to Peter. He grins at me, and reaches across the table, taking my hand. Blood rushes to my cheeks, and I shyly look down at my plate of food. "Thanks for dinner, by the way," I say, as I twirl my hair.

"No problem, babe," he replies, rubbing his thumb in small circles on the back of my hand. He exhales a long sigh, and asks, "I'm going to go get ice cream. Do you want anything?"

I nod, "Yes, please. Vanilla-"

"With rainbow sprinkles," he finishes with a smile. He walks away, and I sink back into my chair. I finish off the final scraps of my buffet dish, and patiently wait for my ice cream. I look around and meet the eyes of my best friend, Jordyn.

"Hey! How are you? I feel like I haven't seen you in forever!" Jordyn says in a high-pitched voice. I smile, and stand up, hugging her.

"It really has been a long time, huh?" I agreed with a light and airy tone, "What're you doing here?"

"Remember that really cute guy I've been telling you about?" Jordyn wiggles her eyebrows up and down, "I'm on a date with him right now!"

I squealed for her. "Aw, Jordyn! That's great!" I laugh, "I'm actually on a date right now."

She squeals back. "Oh, cool! When will I get to meet him?" She stands up on her tiptoes and searches for whoever my boyfriend is.

I see Peter walking back to our table, two ice cream bowls in tow. He's walking with another guy, someone from school, I think. "Oh, there he is now," I smile at him, pointing out my date.

Jordyn nods, and points near Peter. "Yeah, there's my guy, too!" *She must be pointing at the guy next to Peter,* I think to myself.

Peter says goodbye to the other guy, and walks back over to our table, plopping down my ice cream bowl in front of me.

"Hey babe," he says to me. He still has his head down, cleaning up some stray trash around the table.

"Hey babe," Jordyn and I say at the same time. We snap our heads to look at each other, confused looks on each of our faces. Her eyebrows scrunch up, and I shake my head.

"Jordyn," I say, cautiously, "what are you talking about? Peter's my boyfriend."

"No," she replies, slowly, "he's my boyfriend."

Peter, finally hearing that there are two voices involved, looks up, and sees Jordyn and I. The expression on his face said it all: wide eyes, open mouth, and his face turns red. In embarrassment or fear, I do not know. "Crap," I hear him mutter under his breath.

We both cross our arms over our chests. "Peter," I say in an accusatory tone. "What's going on?"

"Nothing, babe," he says to me. Jordyn takes a step back, shock written all over her face.

"Jordyn," he reaches for her hand. She draws her hand back quickly and bites her lip. She picks up her purse and gets ready to go.

"No, no it's fine, Peter," I say, in a mock happy voice. I reach for the bowl of vanilla rainbow sprinkles ice cream. "I totally understand. Two girlfriends. Makes total sense," I say in a monotone-like voice with mock concern. I shake my head and raise the bowl of ice cream.

"I thought you were smarter than that, Peter," I dump the ice cream bowl all over his head, smashing the rainbow sprinkles into his hair. He winces, but that's it.

Jordyn frowns and grabs a glass of water still sitting on the table. "Agreed," she splashes the water up into his face. I see people around us get out their phones and start recording this double break up. Peter wipes the water out of his eyes and sighs. He should've known that we would've eventually found out.

I loop my arm through Jordyn's, and we saunter out of the Souplantation, both newly single. We don't even bother to look back at our shared boyfriend.

"Wanna go grab a movie?" I ask, flipping my hair over my shoulder.

"Why, of course, my best friend," she beams at me and we walk out into the night.