



Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue

Seven Steps Writing Tips

Don't tell anyone, but authors 'cheat' when they write – especially when they write dialogue. They cut to the chase to keep things interesting.

Normal conversations go like this:

'Hi.'

'Hi. How are you?'

'Good. And you?'

'Good.'

'I was thinking of going shopping.'

'Oh. What for?'

'My mother gave me some money for my birthday and I need a new jumper.'

'Sounds great. Count me in.'

In real life we often talk in clichés and ramble a lot. However, reading takes effort, so to keep things moving, writers cut straight to the action. For example:

'Hey, my mum gave me some money for my birthday. Want to go shopping?'

'Sounds great. Count me in.'

TOP TIP:

Give children a starting line to help them avoid the boring parts. For example, they could come up with a conversation between a ghost and a flying pig? Suggest where to begin:

'Hey! Watch where you're going!'

Action Activity:

Tape a conversation at home. Listen to all the rambling, half-finished sentences and 'umms' and 'ers'. This is great proof that strong writing does not have to be based on real life.

