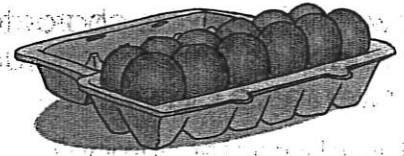


Lesson 10 Dialogue

Dialogue is the conversation among characters in a story. Good dialogue helps readers get to know the characters. Dialogue also moves the action of the story along.



"These aren't from Ivan's," Mom said as soon as she peeked into the egg carton to make sure I hadn't broken any. "Where did you get these?"

Uncertain about her reaction, I said as confidently as I could, "From the farm market. They're fresh."

She held one up. To my surprise, she didn't seem concerned about the color. Was I the only one who had never heard of brown eggs before? She asked, "Was it Mrs. Refsal's stall, then?"

I didn't think my mom paid any attention to the farm market. Now, all of a sudden, she knows these people by name? "Uhh, not unless Mrs. Refsal is a man."

She cocked her head and asked, "A man?"

"He was kinda tall. He had brown hair and brown eyes. He didn't say much." There, I had told her everything I knew.

"Oh," she nodded knowingly, "Jeremiah."

This is not normal. First, I discover brown eggs, about which my mom apparently knows everything. Now, she's on a first-name basis with people I have never even seen before.

What do you learn about the main character from this dialogue?

What do you learn about the main character's mom?

Take a closer look at a line of dialogue and its punctuation.

The **tag line** tells who is speaking.

Quotation marks go before and after the speaker's exact words.

She asked, "Was it Mrs. Refsal's stall, then?"

A **comma** separates the tag line from the speaker's words.

End punctuation goes **inside** the quotation marks.

The speaker's first word begins with a **capital letter**, even if that word is not the first word of the sentence.

