

# Creative Writing 2 Class Recap

## Class Recap: The Art of Dialogue

<b>Date:</b>	<b>October 26th</b>
<b>Focus:</b>	Dialogue as a tool to reveal Character, advance Plot, and create Tone.
<b>Objective:</b>	Analyze how professional writers use purposeful dialogue to convey information without using description.

### What We Learned Today

We learned that in strong creative writing, dialogue is action—it's never just filler or small talk. Every line must have a job to do. We saw that controlling diction (word choice) and syntax (sentence length/rhythm) helps infuse dialogue with tone and character personality, which we practiced in our "Invisible Scene."

Dialogue's Three Jobs	How We Practiced
<b>Reveal Character</b>	Wrote an exchange where one person sounded confident and the other anxious using only their words (Exercise 1).
<b>Move the Plot</b>	Wrote lines that caused a sudden, frightening realization to jumpstart the story (Exercise 2).
<b>Establish Tone</b>	Analyzed the fast, interrupted dialogue in the Social Network clip to show the tense, arrogant tone of the relationship.

### Review: The Power of Subtext 🧐

The most advanced technique we covered is subtext. This is the meaning that is not spoken aloud—it's the emotion, desire, or secret hidden beneath the surface of the words.

- What is said: "We need to talk about what happened last night."
- What is unsaid (Subtext): "I know you're lying, and I'm scared about the consequences."
- How to create it: Use hesitation (ellipses...) or contradiction (a character sounds calm but uses aggressive words). The subtext is what makes dialogue feel realistic and tense.

### Key Takeaways for Your Writing

Remember these rules as you revise your own dialogue:

1. Dialogue is a Shortcut: Don't write, "The villain was mean." Make the villain's dialogue sound mean using harsh diction and short sentences.
2. Use Interruptions: If a character is nervous or impatient, let them interrupt or use dashes (—) to show their thoughts are broken. This is a form of syntax control.
3. Read it Aloud: Always read your dialogue aloud! If it sounds stiff or too formal for the character, their voice is off. **The voice should match the personality.**

### Homework: Dialogue Annotation

Your task is to be a detective! Apply your skills to a published book and analyze how a professional author makes their dialogue purposeful. (See handout for details.)

Find: A six-line passage of dialogue in a book. Analyze: What does the diction reveal about the speaker's personality (character)? What is the subtext—what do the characters really mean? How does the dialogue push the plot forward?



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# Creative Writing 2

## Homework: Dialogue Annotation

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Objective: Analyze how a professional author uses dialogue to reveal character and advance the plot, using the techniques we saw in the film clip.

Instructions: Find a passage in a novel or short story you are currently reading that contains at least three exchanges (six lines) of dialogue. Copy the passage and answer the questions below.

### 1. The Dialogue Passage

Book Title & Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Copy the passage below (or attach separately):

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### 2. Analysis Questions

- Character Voice (Diction & Syntax): How does the word choice (diction) of one character's lines immediately tell you about their personality, background, or mood?

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- Subtext & Tone: Find one line where the character is saying one thing, but you can tell they mean something else (the subtext). What is the true emotion/tone being expressed?

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The Line:

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The True Emotion/Subtext:

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Dialogue as Plot Action: How does this specific piece of dialogue move the plot forward? (Does it reveal a crucial secret, force a character to make a decision, or start a fight that changes the story's direction?)

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