Dialogue

"My dear," Professor Trelawney's huge eyes opened dramatically,

"you have the Grim."

"The what?" said Harry.

He could tell that he wasn't the only one who didn't understand; Dean Thomas shrugged at him and Lavender Brown looked puzzled, but nearly everybody else clapped their hands to their mouths in horror.

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

J.K Rowling

When characters speak…

1. **Enclose dialogue in quotation marks.**

   Ex. "The what?" said Harry.

2. **Don't use quotation marks when you write only the general meaning of what a character has said, not the exact words.**

   Ex. Professor Trelawney told Harry he had the Grim.

3. **If introducing a quote, use a comma before the dialogue.**

   Ex. She stopped again, and then said, in a very matter-of-fact tone, "You look in excellent health to me, Potter."

4. **If dialogue comes <u>before</u> the quote, use a comma, question mark, or exclamation point at the end of a quote- never a period.**

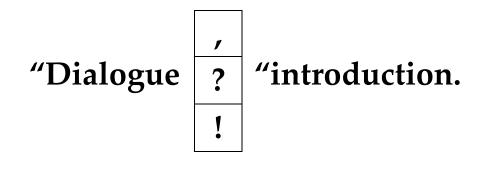   Ex. " I don't think it looks like a Grim," she said flatly.

   Ex. "The what?" said Harry.

   Ex. "The Grim, my dear, the Grim!" cried Professor Trelawney.

Dialogue:

"Dialogue."

Introduction, "Dialogue."

"Dialogue
,
?
!
"introduction.

When showing personal thought…

1. *Italicize* **what the character is thinking.**

Indirect: She wondered who he was.

Direct speech: "Who is he?" she asked.

Direct thought: *Who is he?*

After what seemed like ages, Mrs. Miller was just two steps away from me. *Oh, please let her tell me good news!*

Incident:

When I wake up, the other side of the bed is cold. My fingers stretch out, seeking Prim's warmth but finding only the rough canvas cover of the mattress. She must have had bad dreams and climbed in with our mother. Of course, she did. This is the day of the reaping.

Suzanne Collins

The Hunger Games