

Skellig

David Almond

Recall Underline the different features, using these colours:

Speech always starts with a capital letter.

After the speech, there is either: a comma, a full stop, an exclamation mark or a question mark.

This is called a reporting clause - it tells us who said the speech. If it is at the end of that sentence, there needs to be a full stop.

Speech marks (inverted commas) - before and after the speech.

She rested her hand on my arm.

"They can do marvellous things, Michael. Maybe you'll soon be welcoming your own Persephone home."

Speech can continue over more than one sentence if a person is saying a number of different things. If it does, you put inverted commas at the end of the speech, NOT at the end of each sentence.

Examine and Identify

She rested her hand on my arm.

"They can do marvellous things, Michael. Maybe you'll soon be welcoming your own Persephone home."

There is no reporting clause here. Maybe David Almond chose not to include one because he has already shown the reader how Mina's mother was being kind and reassuring Michael. Sometimes, including a reporting clause make your writing less effective: it becomes tell not show. In year 5, we want to become mature and sophisticated writers! We want to be clever with what we include or don't include. We want to get a balance between telling and showing - this way the reader will stay more engaged and interested in your story.

Actions are used to show the reader more - they can visualise this moment, the characters' feelings, body language and their personalities.

If a character says more than one sentence, punctuation marks are needed to allow the reader to understand all these different things that are being said.

Apply:

1. Re-write this sentence:

She rested her hand on my arm.

Where else might she have rested her hand?

2. Instead of resting her hand on his body she might have used her hand in a different way to reassure Michael. What might she have done to help comfort Michael?

3. If Michael is feeling upset and pessimistic in this moment, how could you show this to the reader? Describe what his body language would be like or describe his actions.

4. Why does David Almond only choose to include certain actions?

LO: Show interactions and feelings

-Some will even explain why authors include/don't include certain actions.

-Some will describe the actions of different characters.

-Most will create their own actions and sentences.

-All will think of their own actions by using an example sentence.