

## English 25.2.21

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 7:45 PM

### ► TBQ: Can I use correctly punctuated dialogue in a poem.

Many performance poems use **dialogue** (speech).

Using different voices for each speaker in a poem can be effective in a performance.

Read/listen to some **dialogue/conversation performance poems**. Can you hear the change of speaker or difference between speech & narration by the **tone of the performer's voice**.

Did you notice that **informal language** is used again.

**Listen to The Torch by Michel Rosen:**



track2-  
thetorch\_0

**Look at the poem below.**

Did you notice that **dialogue** is punctuated in the poem, just the same way as in a story/ narrative.

### **What Will I Be When I Grow Up? By James Carter**

Mum said: 'Happy.'

Dad said: 'Older - and taller.'

My sister Kate said: 'Just as . . . nice!'

My mate Sam said: 'Still my best friend.'

My aunty Jessie said: 'Anything you want to be.'

My uncle Jack said: 'An adult.'

My teacher said: 'Wiser.'

My Gran said: 'Brilliant.'

Doesn't anybody know?

**Let's remind ourselves of the 'rules' for writing dialogue.**

## **Direct Speech**

- \* Each new speaker on a new line.
- \* Speech marks (" ") round the **direct speech**.
- \* Comma between **direct speech** and **reporting clause**...
- \* ...unless there's a ? or !
- \* **Direct speech** begins with a capital letter...
- \* ...unless a sentence is interrupted by the **reporting clause**.

comma before the speech marks

"It's late," said Cinderella.

The prince smiled and answered, "Yes, but we have all the time in the world."

"What time is it?" asked Cinders. "I must leave before midnight."

"If you must go," said the prince, "you'd better hurry. It's 5 to 12."

"Oh no!" cried Cinders.

See also The Sentence Book, pages 8 – 9.

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## Task 1: Punctuation Exercise

Below is an adapted two verse conversation/dialogue poem called, *What's your name*.

You will notice that the punctuation is missing. Write out or edit the poem, thinking particularly about the punctuation (hint: new speaker starts on a new line).

### Mild

This will be released to you individually by your teacher, but you may choose to complete hot, if you wish.

### Hot

Add punctuate to the poem below in **red**.

### whats your name

johnny asked whats your name  
 the girl replied mary jane  
 johnny said where do you live  
 mary answered cabbage lane  
 he asked whats your number  
 she responded rain and thunder

then he queried what address

mary stated watercress

mary asked whats your name

the boy replied johnny macLean

mary said where do you live

he answered down the lane

she asked whats your shop

johnny responded lollipop

then she queried whats your number

he replied cucumber

### Flaming Hot

Add punctuate and structure to the poem below in **red**.

whats your name

johnny asked whats your name the girl replied mary jane johnny said  
where do you live mary answered cabbage lane he asked whats your  
number she responded rain and thunder then he queried what address  
mary stated watercress

mary asked whats your name the boy replied johnny maclean mary said  
where do you live he answered down the lane she asked whats your  
shop johnny responded lollipop then she queried whats your number he  
replied cucumber

anon