

Warm up



Can you write a short descriptive paragraph about this picture?

Can you use alliteration and a simile?

Using Dialogue to Advance Action and Develop Characters



twinkl

Using Dialogue

Dialogue is a conversation or speech that is written down as part of a piece of narrative text.

It is usually between two or more people...



...and it can be really useful when describing characters or advancing a story's plot.

Punctuating Speech

When writing dialogue, it's important that you punctuate the speech correctly.

“ ”

ABC

?!



“We’ve gone the wrong way... again,” sighed Borys, who was fed up of flying around in circles.



“No we haven’t!” shouted Beryl over the buzz of hundreds of pairs of beating wings. “Queen Betty knows the way and, anyway, I’m sure that we’ve not seen this patch of flowers before.”

Using Dialogue to Advance the Action

Dialogue can be great when advancing the plot of a story. Try using your characters to tell the reader what is happening.

“Rosie, what’s it?” sighed Rosie, with a look of concern. James said, “I don’t like it.” Rosie rolled her eyes at the sight of her friend being scared by a building and pushed the heavy door open. “There... there...there’s...a...”

“What? Where? Rosie, there’s nothing there. You’re pointing at an empty space. Stop it, please; you’re scaring me,” James begged.

“It’s fine. there’s nothing here...”



How has the dialogue helped to advance the action?
Would you still know what was happening if you took away all of the speech?

Using Dialogue to Create Tension

Dialogue can really help to create tension within a text. Having two or more characters in danger can make great dialogue for your reader.

~~"Why? We've got to get out of here now!"~~
~~"We're not going to get out of here now!"~~
"Why? We've got to get out of here now!" yelled Rob.

~~"We're not going to get out of here now!"~~
~~"We're not going to get out of here now!"~~
"We're not going to get out of here now!" yelled Rob.

"We've got to try. If we don't, we'll be trapped in here for sure."



How has the dialogue helped to create tension?
Would the writing be as tense without any dialogue?

Using Dialogue to Develop Characters

Dialogue can be an interesting way to develop characters. Think about the way your characters talk and what that might say about their personality.

“Good day, sir?” said an older gentleman while waiting for a bus. “What fine weather if it appeared to be all day on one of ‘em hover fins. Now, that’s fine transport!” “You what?” exclaimed a second man, who also happened to be waiting. “What is you on about? It’s well ‘ot and I ain’t likin’ it.”

“I do beg your pardon; it’s just that I rarely manage to leave the house these days and I find a spot of sunshine to be most beneficial.



What can you tell about the characters from their dialogue?
How has the author used different types of speech to develop the characters?

beneath this charming infrastructure.

Recap

Dialogue can be really useful when advancing the action and developing characters in your writing.



Using Dialogue to Advance the Action

Use your characters' dialogue to tell the story. Remember to have your characters talk about the events otherwise the plot will not advance.



Using Dialogue to Create Tension

Use the dialogue between your characters to create tension. Try making them shout or stutter to give the impression of urgency or fear.



Using Dialogue to Develop Characters

Use the way that your character speaks and their choice of words to show your reader more about their personality, attitude and viewpoint.

Congratulations!

You are now an expert
at using dialogue to
advance action and
develop characters.



What happened in the myth of Perseus?

Opening

Build up

Dilemma

Resolution

Ending

What happened in the myth of Perseus?

Opening

An oracle told King Acrisius that his grandson would kill him.

Build up

King Acrisius locked his daughter, Danae, in a dungeon so that she could not have children. Zeus fell in love with Danae and would visit her in the dungeon, they had a son called Perseus. The King did not believe he was the son of Zeus and cast them both out of the kingdom.

Dilemma

They washed up on the shores of Serifos island and were taken in by King Polydectes. King Polydectes fell in love with Danae, he knew Perseus wouldn't let him marry her, so he sent him to kill one of the three gorgon sisters, Medusa. If you look at her, you turn to stone.

Resolution

Athena and Hermes for help. They provided him with winged sandals, a cap of invisibility and a mirrored shield

Ending

Perseus killed Medusa with a swift swipe of his sword and cut off her head. He took the head back to king Polydectes.

WALT: include direct speech by using inverted commas.

Today I would like you to retell the story mainly through dialogue.

What might some of these characters say?

Danae

King Acrisius

King Argos and the
Oracle

Zeus

King Polydectes

Perseus

WALT: include direct speech by using inverted commas.

Many years ago, the King of Argos sought the advice of an oracle. These magical witches could see into the future, and often advised the rulers of Greece on matters such as war. This particular oracle had a potent warning for King Acrisius.

“One day in the future, your own grandson will be the one to bring about your death,” the oracle said in hushed whispers.

“I shall tell King Acrisius immediately!” replied King Argos.

King Argos sent word to King Acrisius as soon as he arrived home.

“I can’t believe it, how could my own blood betray me! I will not allow Danae to bear any children, I cannot risk a grandchild killing me! Guards, lock her in the dungeons at once!”

“Father please! I do not have any children, and if I did, I would never let them hurt you! Please don’t do this!” Danae begged and pleaded, but King Acrisius mind was made up.

WALT: include direct speech by using inverted commas.

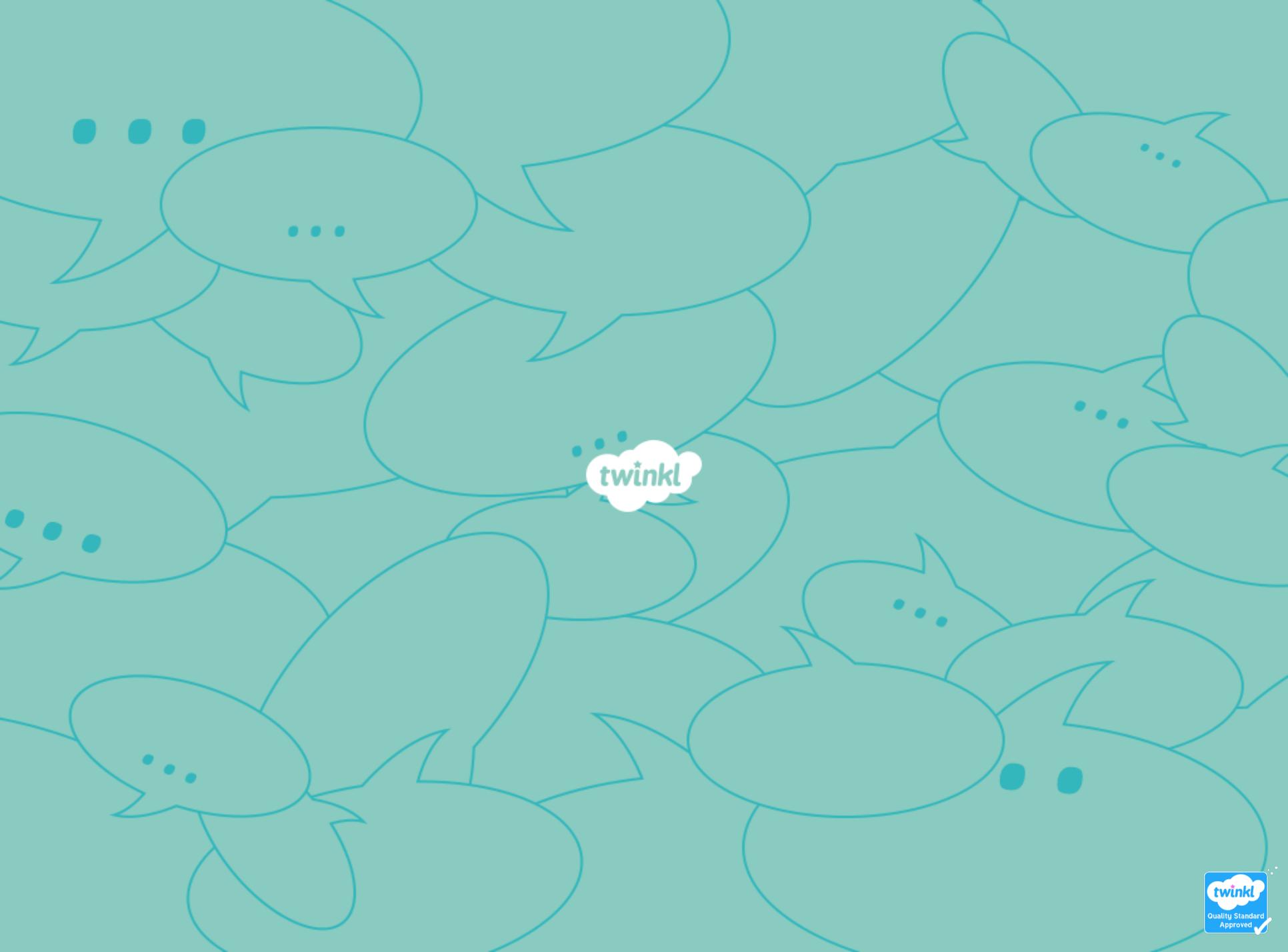
Success criteria

I can retell the myth mainly through dialogue.

I can use inverted commas.

I can ensure characters do not speak on the same line.

I can use dialogue to advance action and develop characters.



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