

Dialogue

As you follow along with the videos, use this handout to complete the activities.

Video 1 Model Passage

The teacher turns around. She's got black, black hair and a tight white little face, as if her skin's a size too small. "And you are?" she asks.

"Matthew Flanagan. But everybody calls me Moose."

"I'm Miss Bimp," she says, looking at her roll sheet. Her pencil moves down the list. "Excuse me, Mr. Flanagan, but I don't see your name here. Are you certain you have the right class? Seventh-grade advanced English?"

"Yes, ma'am," I say.

She squints at me. "Big for seventh grade, aren't you, Mr. Flanagan?"

"Yes, ma'am."

Miss Bimp clears her throat. She puts her hand to her mouth and speaks behind it. "This wouldn't be your second time round in seventh grade, would it?"

Piper laughs first, then the whole class busts up.

My face burns. My ears are like two heaters attached to my head. "No, ma'am," I say.

— *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko

Video 1 Activity

In the space below, write a conversation with a friend about an assignment. Include at least three direct quotations. Place each quotation at the beginning of the sentence. Use what you have learned so far about writing dialogue.

Example:

"I'm worried about finishing my book report," I said.

"You should try working on it for an hour each night," Jimmy replied.

"That's a good idea."

"Will you let me know how it goes?" asked Jimmy.

Video 2 Model Passages

On the way back to school to catch my bus, Carl said, “When can I come to your house and see your collection?”

After thinking of possible excuses, I finally said, “I live too far. I’ll bring my collection to school. It’s not much, just a few Lincoln Head pennies.”

— Adapted from *The Circuit: Stories for the Life of a Migrant Child* by Francisco Jiménez

“My pennies,” I cried, “are gone!”

— Adapted from *The Circuit: Stories for the Life of a Migrant Child* by Francisco Jiménez

Video 2 Activity

First, in the space below, write a direct quotation that comes at the end of a sentence and begins with the dialogue tag.

Example: Eleanor stated, “The assembly is cancelled.”

Next, write a direct quotation that has more than one sentence plus a dialogue tag.

Example: “When the wind blows, we meet in the park and fly our kites. This is usually during the month of March,” said Kamir.

Finally, write a one-sentence, direct quotation that is interrupted by a dialogue tag.

Example: “Are you willing,” she asked, “to give up your place in line?”

Video 3 Sample Passage

It had been raining all day. Mr. Haines told us that the school fair had been moved to the gym. I was upset. Our class had the dunking booth. James was worried. He didn't know what to do about the floor. Laura had a great idea. James and I volunteered to help her.

Video 3 Model Dialogue

Mr. Haines announced, "Because of the rain, the school fair cannot be held outside. It'll be held in the gym."

"I can't believe it!" I cried.

Video 3 Activity

In the space below, finish the dialogue for this scene. Remember to indent and start a new paragraph each time the speaker changes, use a capital letter to begin the first sentence in each quotation, and check the placement of all commas and end punctuation.