



Dialogue

I believe that we struggle all our lives to speak and write in a way that is specific to us, that shows how we feel and think and hope and wonder in a way that someone who is not us might understand.
Peter Rock, writing about the characters in Watership Down.

Try these ideas for a dialogue

- Write a few lines or a small paragraph trying to capture the individual voice of a character. No description, no action. Only the character speaking.
- Write a conversation between your characters. Build the conversation so that you show the relationship between the two, but each thing that's said is a question. Maybe you're beginning to capture two people's individuality.
- Write a dialogue between two characters in which the characters want something different from each other. Or the characters are talking past each other.
- Write to set the dialogue in a place. Slow it down. Step Back. Give some context for the characters you're working with. Give some details of the place where your characters are speaking.
- Write for the rhythm, the humor, the music or the repetition of a character's way of talking.
- Write to include a line or lines of action; the action might be in contrast to the dialogue. It can be a gesture or an action a character is engaged in.
- If you like, continue with additions to the dialogue: add gestures, small actions, details of setting to this dialogue.
- Write a dialogue in which your characters are in a moment of responding as honestly as they can to one another or their inability to. This is possibly a resolution or moment of light.

