

5. Dialogue

When characters speak, their exact language should be in quotes, and the reader should know who's speaking, thus these rules:

Each speaker gets his or her own paragraph; a return and indent. This mimics real conversation, indicating pauses and so forth.

Attributions ("He said", "She said" and variations) should be used, but not too much.

Always use a comma after attribution (She said,) when introducing a quote.

Jane and Sanai were sitting in the backyard. It was a beautiful autumn morning, and the colorful leaves were falling.

"What are you doing this summer?" Jane asked.

"Duh?! don't you know what I'm going to be doing?!" Sanai said rudely.

"Well sooooory, I thought you would do something else than JUST play basketball"

Sanai picked a basketball up off the ground, throwing it behind her head. The basketball 'swooshed' through the net across the yard.

"Like a boss" said Sanai.

"Like a boss? What does that mean?" asked Jane

"You're helpless" said Sanai.