

Characterization

- Direct Methods of Character Presentation
 - Dialogue
 - Summary
 - Indirect
 - Direct
 - Economy in dialogue (emotion/logical)
 - Characterize
 - Provide exposition
 - Set the scene
 - Advance the action
 - Foreshadow
 - Remind
 - “Make it sound natural—but it isn’t natural
 - Keep brief, pay attention to the rhythm of sentences
 - Distillation – avoiding long monologues and keeping the sense of an exchange
 - Characterizing dialogue
 - Trick is “hearing” the voice of different people
 - Choice of language reveals content, character, conflict, and type

- Carry notebook and pick up, verbatim, vivid lines, exchanges
- Other uses of dialogue
 - Set the scene
 - Set the mood
 - Reveal the theme
 - Dialogue as action (changes relationship between characters), advance the action
 - Dialogue is action when it contains the possibility of change
- Text and subtext
 - Be careful about defining “feeling” too precisely
- When not to use dialogue
- Specificity – in conflict dialogue, details are the rocks character throw at each other
- Pacing – take your time and listen closely to what your character must say, based on who they are and what they want, rather than foisting your own agenda on them
- Format and style
- Vernacular