



DIALOGUE:

Read the following story:

- [“The Lottery”](#) by Shirley Jackson

After reading it, reflect on these questions yourself, or discuss them with someone who might be interested in listening to your thoughts / reading the story with you!

Remember, there are no right or wrong answers. Evaluating a story, just like evaluating any other type of art, is subjective, so your answers to these questions will definitely vary. The important thing to remember is that you’re answering these questions critically – referencing the stories you read, not simply making up answers. If you want to be a better writer, you’ve got to learn to read like one!

1. Despite a large cast of characters in “The Lottery”, how did you distinguish them from one another? How little or large a role did dialogue play in helping you differentiate them?
2. Did the vague, clipped words and statements add to the suspense and build up to the shocking reveal at the end?
3. How did the constant questioning amongst the characters make you feel? Did it heighten the mystery?
4. Is there one character who stood out to you? How would you describe them, based on their dialogue alone?

To summarize:

Dialogue is a conversation between two or more characters that is depicted on the page. It provides the unique opportunity to further flesh out characters, given the fact that people have unique vocabularies and speech patterns that reflect their backgrounds. Aside from this, dialogue makes a story livelier, since conversations usually draw a reader in with their directness and succinctness.