**Lesson 4**

**Hello year 9, please follow the instructions for today’s lesson.**

**Start by reading the next part of the story**

*"Yes. Why not? You win, you take de car. You looss, I take de finger."*

*"I don't get it. How d'you mean, you take the finger?"*

*"I chop it off."*

*"Jumping jeepers! That's a crazy bet. I think I'll just make it a dollar."*

*The man leaned back, spread out his hands palms upward and gave a tiny contemptuous shrug of the shoulders. "Well, well, well," he said. "I do not understand. You say it lights but you will not bet. Den we forget it, yes?"*

*The boy sat quite still, staring at the bathers in the pool. Then he remembered suddenly he hadn't lighted his cigarette. He put it between his lips, cupped his hands around the lighter and flipped the wheel. The wick lighted and burned with a small, steady, yellow flame and the way he held his hands the wind didn't get to it at all.*

*"Could I have a light, too?" I said.*

*"Gee, I'm sorry. I forgot you didn't have one."*

*I held out my hand for the lighter, but he stood up and came over to do it for me.*

*"Thank you," I said, and he returned to his seat. "You having a good time?" I asked.*

*"Fine," he answered. "It's pretty nice here."*

*There was a silence then, and I could see that the little man has succeeded in disturbing the boy with his absurd proposal. He was sitting there very still, and it was obvious that a small tension was beginning to build up inside him. Then he started shifting about in his seat, and rubbing his chest, and stroking the back of his neck, and finally he placed both hands on his knees and began tapping his fingers against his knee-caps. Soon he was tapping with one of his feet as well.*

*"Now just let me check up on this bet of yours," he said at last. "You say we go up to your room and if I make this lighter light ten times running I win a Cadillac. If it misses just once then I forfeit the little finger of my left hand. Is that right?"*

*"Certainly. Dat is de bet. But I tink you are afraid."*

*"What do we do if I lose? Do I have to hold my finger out while you chop it off?"*

*"Oh, no! Dat would be no good. And you might be tempted to refuse to hold it out. What I should do I should tie one of your hands to de table before we started and I should stand dere with a knife ready to go chop de momint your lighter missed."*

*"What year is the Cadillac?" the boy asked.*

*"Excuse. I not understand."*

*"What year-how old is the Cadillac?"*

*"Ah! How old? Yes. It is last year. Quite new car. But I see you are not betting man. Americans never are."*

*The boy paused for just a moment and he glanced first at the English girl, then at me. "Yes," he said sharply. "I'll bet you."*

*"Good!" The little man clapped his hands together quietly, once. "Fine," he said. "We do it now. And you, sir," he turned to me, "you would perhaps be good enough to, what you call it, to-to referee." He had pale, almost colourless eyes with tiny bright black pupils.*

*"Well," I said. "I think it's a crazy bet. I don't think I like it very much."*

*"Nor do I," said the English girl. It was the first time she'd spoken. "I think it's a stupid, ridiculous bet."*

*"Are you serious about cutting off this boy's finger if he loses?" I said.*

*"Certainly I am. Also about giving him Cadillac if he win. Come now. We go to my room."*

*He stood up. "You like to put on some clothes first?" he said.*

*"No," the boy answered. "I'll come like this." Then he turned to me. "I'd consider it a favour if you'd come along and referee."*

1. What does the narrator think of the Old man when he makes the bet?
2. How does the Old man coax the sailor into taking the bet? Find the quotation.
3. Why do you think the American boy decided to take the bet?
4. Why do you think the sailor wants the narrator to referee? What does this tell us about his feelings towards the Old man?

**Task 2: Using Dialogue**

**LO: How is dialogue used accurately and effectively in a piece of**

**creative writing?**

**Task 1:**Look at the extract below from *The Man From The South,* when the narrator asks the American boy for a light:

*Could I have a light, too? I said. Gee, I'm sorry. I forgot you didn't have one. I held out my hand for the lighter, but he stood up and came over to do it for me. Thank you, I said, and he returned to his seat. You having a good time? I asked. Fine, he answered. It's pretty nice here.*

I have removed the speech marks and the paragraphs from this extract. Mark where the new lines/paragraphs should be by writing // and then mark where the speech marks should be by writing “ ”.

You could do this either by writing/editing over the extract, or if you would prefer, you could copy the whole extract below:

Challenge: What are the rules of writing dialogue?

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**Read & Learn:**Dialogue is when characters speak in a story. So that the dialogue is clear, writers must:

* start a new line/paragraph whenever a new person begins speaking.
* put speech marks around what is being said.
* put other punctuation (eg. question marks, commas) inside the final speech mark.

Check your answers against the larger extract below:

*"Could I have a light, too?" I said.*

*"Gee, I'm sorry. I forgot you didn't have one."*

*I held out my hand for the lighter, but he stood up and came over to do it for me.*

*"Thank you," I said, and he returned to his seat. "You having a good time?" I asked.*

*"Fine," he answered. "It's pretty nice here."*

*There was a silence then, and I could see that the little man has succeeded in disturbing the boy with his absurd proposal. He was sitting there very still, and it was obvious that a small tension was beginning to build up inside him. Then he started shifting about in his seat, and rubbing his chest, and stroking the back of his neck, and finally he placed both hands on his knees and began tapping his fingers against his knee-caps. Soon he was tapping with one of his feet as well.*

*"Now just let me check up on this bet of yours," he said at last. "You say we go up to your room and if I make this lighter light ten times running I win a Cadillac. If it misses just once then I forfeit the little finger of my left hand. Is that right?"*

*"Certainly. Dat is de bet. But I tink you are afraid."*

**Read & Learn:** As we can see from the extract, there are a number of things we should and could do in order to make our dialogue accurate and effective:

To make your dialogue accurate you should:

* Start a new line/paragraph whenever a new person begins speaking]
* Put speech marks around what is being said
* Put other punctuation (eg. question marks, commas) inside the final speech mark.

**Main Task: Write a piece of dialogue based on the image below. It should be approximately 200 words (half of a page). Follow the instructions in the top three bullet points above**

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**Suggested opening (use this if you can’t think of how to start)**

*After breakfast, Grandpa helped Joseph to pot plants on the balcony in the morning sunshine.*

What might they talk about?

* Maybe Joseph is worried about starting school soon.
* Perhaps Joseph is on vacation with his grand-parents and has never been to a big city before.
* Or perhaps they are in lockdown and Joseph is confused about why they cannot leave the apartment!

Challenge: Vary your punctuation within the speech to make it more exciting and to show the characters moods. For example, if Joseph is getting frustrated or doesn’t understand something, you might use what kind of punctuation to show his anger?

Please complete this quiz:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zz3XjXy17EC3-HVbUS2fex47Eck8wixKgoG5SSE4U2lUOUtRTjNRU0FURFo4Wjk2SVYwN01JWFg2Qi4u>