

## Using dialogue

How does the author show me who's talking?

How does the author tell me what the characters are thinking when they aren't talking?

How does the author weave in description and detail?

How does the author weave in what is happening around the dialogue?

...and  
... from work.  
"Of course," I say.

A knock sounds at the door and I go to answer it. It's Xander. "We still have a few minutes before curfew," he says. "Do you want to come talk on the steps with me?"

"Of course." I close the door behind me and go outside. The porch light shines bright above us and we are in full view of the world—or at least the world of Mapletree Borough—as we sit down on the cement steps side by side. It feels good to be with Xander, in a different way than it feels good to be with Ky.

Still. Being with Ky, being with Xander—both things feel like standing in the light. Different types of light, but neither feels dark.

"It sounds like the two of us have an outing tomorrow night," Xander says.

"The three of us," I say, and when he looks puzzled, I add, "Don't forget the Official."

Xander groans. "Right. How could I forget?"

"I wish we could go alone."

"Me too." Neither of us says anything for a moment. The wind sails along our street, ruffling the leaves on the maple trees. In the evening light the leaves look silver-gray; their