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What Is the Character Saying?

Objective

After a read-aloud experience, the student will write pieces of dialogue as they might be spoken by different characters.

Standards

- Standard 1K: Writes in response to literature (e.g., advances judgements; supports judgements with references to the text, characteristics of the word choice trait, and personal knowledge)

Materials

- Picture book: *More Than Anything Else* by Marie Bradby. Orchard Books, 1995.
- Chapter book option: *Thunder Cave* by Roland Smith. Hyperion Books for Children, 1995. (Use one book per four students.)
- What Is the Character Saying? (page 37)

Preparation

Reproduce one copy of page 37 for each student.

Lesson Opening

Ask students, “Have you ever read stories where it feels like the author talks directly to you? What makes it seem that way?”

Lesson Directions

1. Guide students in reviewing characteristics of voice as the class discusses any books in which it seems the author is speaking directly to the reader.
2. Read the book *More Than Anything Else* aloud to the class. Discuss how the author’s and characters’ voices come through in the writing.
3. Distribute page 37. Have students create four characters, either real or pretend or a combination. What would the character talk about? What language would the character use? What words would the character say? Then, students can write the characters’ words in a conversation bubble. The students can then label the character on the line below, e.g., a young teacher on the first day on the job.
4. Select students to read the characters’ words from their papers and allow their classmates to try to guess what type of person is speaking.

Lesson Closing

Say to students, “In the story we read today, did it sound like a real person was telling the story? Why or why not? What did he or she say that made it feel like he or she was talking to you, the reader, directly? What are some ways you could begin to use the qualities of this trait in your own writing?”

What Is the Character Saying? *(cont.)*

Directions: Think of a character. What would the character say? What would the character talk about? Write the character's words in a conversation balloon. Then label the character.

