**Dialogue Rules**

Dialogue is the conversation among characters in a story. Good dialogue helps the reader get to know the characters. Dialogue also moves the action of the story along.

EXAMPLE:

“These aren’t from Ivan’s,” Mom said as soon as she peeked into the egg carton to make sure I hadn’t broken any. “Where did you get these?”

 Uncertain about her reaction, I said as confidently as I could, “I got them from the farm market. They’re fresh.”

 She held one up. To my surprise, she didn’t seem concerned about the colour. Was I the only one who has never heard of brown eggs before? She asked, “Was it Mrs. Refsal’s stall then?”

 I didn’t think my mom paid any attention to the farm market. Now, all of a sudden, she knows these people by name? “Uhh, not unless Mrs. Refsal is a man,” I replied very sarcastically.

 She cocked her head and asked, “A man?”

 I replied very nervously, “He was kinda tall. He had brown hair and brown eyes. He didn’t say much.” There, I had told her everything I knew.

 “Oh,” she nodded knowingly, “Jeremiah.”

 This is not normal. First, I discover brown eggs, about which my mom apparently knows everything. Now, she’s on a first-name basis with people I have never even seen before.

***Take a closer look at each line of dialogue and the punctuation:***

**She asked, “Where did you get these eggs?”**

**“These aren’t from Ivan’s,” Mom said as soon as she peeked into the egg carton to make sure I hadn’t broken any.**

**When writing dialogue, be aware of several considerations:**

a) Start a new paragraph every time someone new speaks.

The Giver asked, “You think I’m crazy?”

 “Sometimes,” Jonas replied.

b) Single quotation marks are used to indicate a quote within a quote.

 “The word ‘crazy’ shouldn’t be confused with ‘hungry’,” The Giver said.

c) When quoting a famous person, use a colon instead of a comma after a source phrase.

Ralph Waldo Emmerson said: “Thought is the blossom; language is the bud; action the fruit behind it.”

Punctuate the Sentence:

"Go to the house," Kerry's father said, "and get your mother!"