

# Lesson Three - The Flight of Icarus: A Tragic Tale of Soaring Dreams

## Time to prepare

Key Terms	
secluded	hidden or isolated from others; a place that is private or not easily accessible
exhilaration	a feeling of great excitement, happiness, and joy
mesmerising	captivating or enchanting; holding one's attention or interest in a compelling way
beckon	to call or signal someone to come closer or follow, often with a gesture or movement
hubris	excessive pride or arrogance, often resulting in a person's downfall
plummets	to fall or drop straight down at a high speed

In the Australian Progyrnasmata (Fables), we learnt about including dialogue in our writing. It is time to refresh our memories about dialogue - and the English grammar rules that apply!

Dialogue is an integral element of storytelling across various mediums, including literature, plays, and movies. It entails the conversation between characters, enabling them to interact, convey thoughts and emotions, and advance the plot. By employing dialogue, writers breathe life into their characters, providing readers with insights into their personalities and relationships. In English grammar, specific rules and conventions govern the writing of dialogue.

**Quotation Marks:** In written dialogue, spoken words are enclosed within quotation marks. English grammar conventionally uses double quotation marks (" ") to signify direct speech, while single quotation marks (' ') may be employed for a quotation within a quotation.

**Punctuation:** Commas, full stops, question marks, and exclamation marks are placed inside the closing quotation marks. This is done to properly punctuate the dialogue. For instance: "I love to read," she said. "Do you have any recommendations?"

**Attribution Tags:** Attribution tags, also referred to as dialogue tags, attribute dialogue to specific characters and indicate who is speaking. Common attribution tags include "he said," "she asked," "they exclaimed," and so on. These tags are typically placed before, after, or within the dialogue. It is important to note that a comma is used to separate the dialogue tag from the spoken words. For example: "I'm so excited," she said, "to go on this adventure."

**Direct and Indirect Speech:** Direct speech presents the exact words spoken by a character, enclosed in quotation marks. On the other hand, indirect speech summarizes what was said without using quotation marks. For example, direct speech: "I will be there," he said. Indirect speech: He said he would be there.

**Punctuation within Dialogue:** Proper punctuation within dialogue is essential to convey meaning and ensure readability. Commas are used to separate dialogue tags from the spoken words. Question marks and exclamation marks are used to denote interrogative and exclamatory sentences within the dialogue.

Mastering these grammar rules empowers writers to effectively construct and format dialogue, ensuring clarity and engagement for readers. Through skillful implementation of dialogue, writers bring their characters to life and craft dynamic and immersive narratives.

### Time to revise

1. Complete the table below. Define each of the key terms. In the third column, use the word correctly in a sentence. You can copy out the sentence from the Time to prepare story or write your own sentence.

Key Terms		
secluded		
exhilaration		
mesmerising		
beckon		
hubris		
plummets		

2. What is the purpose of dialogue in storytelling?

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3. How should spoken words be represented in written dialogue?

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4. Where should punctuation marks be placed in relation to quotation marks?

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5. How can clarity be enhanced when writing dialogue involving multiple speakers?

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6. What are attribution tags, and why are they used in dialogue?

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7. How can writers convey indirect speech within dialogue?

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## Time to read

### 8. Read the following story, 'The Flight of Icarus: A Tragic Tale of Soaring Dreams':

In the mystical land of Crete, where myths and legends intertwined, there lived a skilled craftsman named Daedalus and his young son, Icarus. Daedalus was renowned throughout the land for his talent in creating extraordinary inventions and magical contraptions, but none were as remarkable as the pair of wings he crafted from feathers and wax.

Icarus, a curious and adventurous boy of thirteen summers, yearned for grand adventures and dreamed of soaring through the skies like a mighty eagle. Aware of his son's boundless spirit, Daedalus decided to make his dream come true. With great excitement, he presented Icarus with the magnificent wings, their feathers shimmering like rays of sunlight.

"These wings will grant you the power to fly, my son," Daedalus said, his eyes sparkling with pride. "But remember, you must heed my warnings. Fly too close to the sun, and the wax will melt. Fly too close to the sea, and the dampness will make your wings heavy."

Icarus eagerly embraced the wings, feeling their weight in his hands. His heart swelled with exhilaration and anticipation. Together, father and son ventured to a secluded cliff overlooking the sparkling Aegean Sea. The sun's golden rays danced upon the azure waters, casting a mesmerizing spell.

"Now, my son, it is time for you to take flight," Daedalus proclaimed, a mixture of joy and concern in his voice. "But remember to stay at a moderate height, neither too high nor too low."

With a leap of faith, Icarus spread his wings wide, feeling the wind catch beneath them. He soared into the open sky, leaving the worries of the world far below. The sensation was like nothing he had ever experienced before. He laughed with sheer delight as he soared higher and higher, his dreams becoming a vivid reality.

As Icarus flew, he marveled at the beauty of the world below. The lush green landscapes stretched out like a colorful tapestry, and the vastness of the ocean sparkled beneath him. The cool breeze caressed his face, and the joy in his heart knew no bounds.

But alas, the alluring sun, shining brightly in the vast expanse of the sky, beckoned to Icarus. Its warm rays enticed him, whispering promises of even greater heights and glory. Ignoring his father's warnings, Icarus soared higher and higher, drawn towards the radiant orb.

Unbeknownst to Icarus, the wax that held his wings together began to soften under the sun's intense heat. Gradually, he felt a sudden heaviness in his shoulders as the feathers started to fall away. Panic gripped his heart as he desperately flapped his weakened wings, but it was in vain. One by one, the feathers detached, leaving Icarus helplessly plummeting towards the vast expanse of the sea.

The waves eagerly awaited his impending descent. Daedalus, witnessing his son's tragic fall, cried out in anguish. The sea, ever-hungry and remorseless, enveloped Icarus, swallowing him whole, leaving only ripples and echoes of what once was.

Daedalus, grief-stricken and wiser from the painful lesson, vowed never to fly again. He lived the remainder of his days mourning the loss of his beloved son and sharing the tale of Icarus as a cautionary reminder to those who dream of reaching the heavens.

And so, the legend of Icarus lives on, a tale of ambition and the price of hubris. It teaches us the importance of balance, humility, and the wisdom to heed the warnings that lie within our hearts.

### Time to annotate

9. Circle any words or phrases that you do not understand.
10. Use a question mark for any questions you have about the story. Be sure to note your question down in the margin.
11. Use an exclamation mark for key changes in the story or for things that took you by surprise. Be sure to note in the margin the key change or why it is surprising.
12. Draw an arrow when you make a connection to something inside the text, or to an idea outside the text.

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### Time to discuss

Having analysed the story, you are now ready to discuss it by answering the following questions:

**13. What are the archetypal characters?**

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14. Describe the setting of the story.

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15. What Divine Elements are present in the story?

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16. What is the Moral or Lesson of the story?

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17. What symbolism appears in the story?

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18. What is the genre of this story?

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Time to compose

19. Imagine a conversation between Daedalus and Icarus just before they embark on their flight. What would they say to each other? Write a dialogue capturing their excitement, fears, and final words of advice.

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20. Write a dialogue between Icarus and the sun. As Icarus is drawn towards the sun's radiant orb, imagine a conversation between them. How does the sun tempt Icarus? How does Icarus respond?

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21. Imagine a conversation between Daedalus and Icarus after the tragic fall. How do they reflect on the events? Write a dialogue capturing their sorrow, remorse, and lessons learned.

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### Time to present

22. At the end of this lesson, it is time to present the poem "The Old Australian Ways" by Banjo Paterson to your class or in your homeschool! Remember to approach your recitation with confidence. Maintain good posture, make eye contact with the audience, and convey your passion and connection to the poem.

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