

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	hidden or isolated from others; a place that is private or not easily accessible	In the secluded depths of the ancient forest, a mythical creature guarded its treasure.
exhilaration	a feeling of great excitement, happiness, and joy	The hero's heart raced with exhilaration as he faced the formidable dragon in the epic mythological battle.
mesmerising	captivating or enchanting; holding one's attention or interest in a compelling way	The enchanting melody of the mythical siren's song mesmerized sailors, luring them towards their doom.
beckon	to call or signal someone to come closer or follow, often with a gesture or movement	The distant mountain peak beckoned the adventurous explorer, promising the discovery of a mythical realm.
hubris	excessive pride or arrogance, often resulting in a person's downfall	The tragic tale of Icarus serves as a cautionary reminder of the perils of hubris in Greek mythology.
plummets	to fall or drop straight down at a high speed	With a sudden twist of fate, the hero's hopes plummeted as the mythical artifact slipped through their grasp.

2. **What is the purpose of dialogue in storytelling?**

Dialogue allows characters to interact, express thoughts, emotions, and advance the plot in various narrative forms such as literature, plays, and movies.

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

Spoken words should be enclosed within quotation marks, using double quotation marks (" ") for direct speech and single quotation marks (' ') for a quotation within a quotation.

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

Commas, periods, question marks, and exclamation marks should be placed inside the closing quotation marks to properly punctuate dialogue.

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

Each time there is a change in speaker, a new paragraph should begin. Additionally, lines spoken by different characters should be indented to distinguish their dialogue from other narrative elements.

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

Attribution tags, also known as dialogue tags, attribute dialogue to specific characters and indicate who is speaking. They help readers identify the speaker and understand the flow of conversation.

7. How can writers convey indirect speech within dialogue?

Indirect speech summarises what was said without using quotation marks. Writers can use indirect speech to provide a summary of the dialogue or to convey someone's words indirectly.

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.

<p>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. <i>?(1)</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>"These wings will grant you the power to fly, my son," Daedalus said, his eyes sparkling with pride. "But remember, you must heed</p>	<p>1. <i>Why were they so remarkable?</i> The wings crafted by Daedalus were remarkable due to their unconventional design, granting the ability of human flight, skilled craftsmanship, and symbolic significance.</p> <p>2. <i>Is this warning a metaphor?</i> No, the warning given by Daedalus to Icarus was not a metaphor. It was a literal cautionary advice to</p>
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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." ?
(2)

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prevent Icarus from flying too close to the sun or too close to the sea. The warning was meant to be taken literally as a practical instruction to avoid the dangers that could result from disregarding the limits of the wings. It served as a direct guidance to ensure Icarus' safety during his flight.

3. *Icarus' Disregard for the Warning:* It is surprising when Icarus ignores his father's warnings and flies too close to the sun.

Despite being explicitly instructed about the risks of flying too high, Icarus becomes enticed by the allure of the sun and disregards the cautionary advice.

4. *What does the word anguish mean?* extreme mental or emotional distress.

5. *How does this myth live on? Where else does this story appear?* The story of Daedalus and Icarus is also present in Roman mythology, often drawing from the Greek sources. It is featured in the works of Roman poets such as Virgil and Hyginus.

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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?

The Wise Mentor: Daedalus embodies the archetype of the wise mentor. He possesses exceptional knowledge, skill, and experience, guiding and advising his son, Icarus. He represents wisdom, guidance, and the passing down of knowledge from one generation to the next.

The Rebellious Youth: Icarus embodies the archetype of the rebellious youth. Curious, adventurous, and eager for grand experiences, he yearns to break free from limitations and defy the rules set by his father. He represents the desire for freedom, exploration, and the consequences of youthful recklessness.

14. Describe the setting of the story.

The myth of Daedalus and Icarus is primarily set in the mystical land of Crete, with specific scenes taking place on a secluded cliff overlooking the sparkling Aegean Sea. The setting adds an enchanting and captivating atmosphere to the story.

15. What Divine Elements are present in the story?

Wings of Feathers and Wax: The wings crafted by Daedalus using feathers and wax possess a supernatural quality. They grant Icarus the power of flight, enabling him to defy the natural limitations of human capabilities.

Tragic Fate: The tragic fate of Icarus, his wings melting as he flies too close to the sun, suggests a divine intervention or punishment for his disregard of the warnings. It reflects the belief in divine justice and the idea that the gods have control over human destiny.

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

The myth imparts a moral lesson or cautionary tale about the consequences of hubris, emphasizing the importance of balance, humility, and heeding warnings.

17. What symbolism appears in the story?

The wings represent the desire for freedom and the human longing to transcend earthly limitations, while the fall of Icarus symbolizes the dangers of unchecked ambition and overconfidence.

18. What is the genre of this story?

Myth

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.**

Sample response: Daedalus looked at his young son, Icarus, feeling both proud and worried. "Icarus, my son, it's time for our big adventure. Are you ready?" he asked, eagerly anticipating the answer. Icarus, filled with excitement, nodded eagerly. "Yes, Father! I can't believe we're going to fly!" he exclaimed, his voice full of wonder. Daedalus smiled and put his hand on Icarus's shoulder. "Remember, Icarus, we have to be careful. Fly at a medium height and avoid the sun and sea," he cautioned, his tone becoming serious. Icarus nodded; his eyes filled with determination. "I promise, Father. I'll be careful. But imagine how incredible it will feel to soar through the sky!" he exclaimed, his voice bursting with youthful enthusiasm. Daedalus sighed, a mix of pride and concern in his voice. "Yes, it will be an amazing sight. But always remember my warnings. Promise me, Icarus," he urged, his voice carrying a sense of responsibility. Icarus met his father's gaze and replied earnestly, "I promise, Father. I'll listen and stay within safe limits. We'll conquer the sky together!"

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?**

Sample response: Icarus looked up at the bright sun, its warm rays beckoning him. "Oh, beautiful Sun, your warmth and brightness call to me. I want to reach the sky!" he said, filled with longing. The sun's voice whispered in his ear, inviting him to fly higher. "Icarus, come closer. Feel the excitement of soaring higher, embracing my rays," it tempted him, trying to lure him to the heavens. Icarus hesitated, remembering his father's warnings. "The temptation is strong, but my father told me not to get too close. There's danger," he thought, cautiously. The sun continued to tempt him, promising greater glory. "Don't be afraid, Icarus. Your wings can take you to amazing places. Come, enjoy the joy of the sky," it urged him, making enticing promises. Icarus resisted, determined to follow his father's wisdom. "Your words are tempting, but I have to resist. I need to listen to my father and stay safe," he declared firmly.

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.**

Sample response: Daedalus, his eyes filled with grief, approached Icarus who was sitting by the seashore, his spirit crushed. "Icarus, my dear son, I can't bear the pain of losing you," he said, his voice trembling with sorrow. Icarus looked up at his father, tears streaming down his face. "Father, I'm so sorry. I didn't listen to your warnings, and now I have paid the price," he sobbed, his voice filled with regret.

Daedalus knelt beside him, his voice filled with a mix of sadness and wisdom. "Icarus, my beloved son, it's not entirely your fault. I should have been more cautious with our ambitions," he admitted, his voice tinged with self-blame. Icarus looked at his father,

finding solace in his words. "But Father, I was so foolish. I let my hubris cloud my judgment," he confessed, his voice heavy with remorse.

Daedalus placed a comforting hand on Icarus's shoulder. "Yes, we both made mistakes, my son. We were captivated by the allure of the sky and underestimated its dangers," he acknowledged, his voice carrying a tone of wisdom. Icarus nodded, wiping away his tears. "We should have listened to the voice of reason, Father. We should have respected the limits set for us," he said, his voice reflecting newfound understanding.

They sat in silence for a moment, the weight of their loss hanging heavy in the air. Then, Daedalus spoke, his voice filled with determination. "Icarus, let this tragedy serve as a lesson to us and to others. We must embrace humility and learn from our mistakes," he urged, his voice carrying a sense of resolution. Icarus nodded, his eyes filled with determination. "You're right, Father. From now on, I will carry the memory of this lesson and be cautious in my pursuits," he vowed, his voice resonating with newfound wisdom.

Together, they stood up and walked away from the seashore, carrying the burden of their sorrow and the valuable lessons learned from their tragic flight.

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.**