Step 4: Dynamic Dialogue

Top Techniques

A scene from a story really comes alive when dialogue is used. Here’s a story about a really strange day at school. However, in the first example the writer has summarised what people say, instead of using the words themselves.

**Before**

I walked to school and got there late. Everyone was in class. I opened the door and there were kids everywhere. Boys were climbing out the window and there were paper planes all over the place. My best friend Anna was holding one of the rats from the science lab and the rest were running all over the room. Anna told me there were no teachers, none at all.

Now see how this can be improved by using the real words of the people. We find out just as much information, but the characters really come alive.

**After**

Late to school again, everyone was in class. I opened the door to the classroom at full speed. ‘Duck!’ yelled Matt, and a huge paper aeroplane came diving right at my head.

‘Come on.’ Jack was halfway out the window, two boys were right behind him.

My best friend Anna was holding one of the rats from the science lab – the rest were running everywhere.

‘What’s happening?’ I asked her.

‘There’s no teachers,’ she cried. ‘None at all!’