

The Conversation

Approach: Team

Level: Year 8

Resources: 2 copies of fire photo; 4 blue pens; 4 red pens.

Questions/instructions

In this writing activity you will be working in pairs. A1 [name] and A2 [name] will work together, and A3 [name] and A4 [name] will work together.

Hand each pair a copy of the photograph.

Here is a photograph from the newspaper. It is about a fire. The two people in the photo are a fireman and a detective.

Write a really interesting conversation between the two people. You will need to show which person is speaking alongside what they are saying.

I will give you five minutes to do this. Then you can share what you have written with the other pair. They can give you some helpful ideas about your work.

Give the students the paper and blue pens. Allow 5 mins.

Read your ideas to the group. As you do this, one of you can be the fireman and the other can be the detective. While one pair is reading out their work, the other pair should think of some ideas to help them make their work more interesting.

Allow time

Now see if you can suggest ways that the other pair's work could be improved.

Allow time

Now go back to your pairs and work on your writing for another five minutes. Think about the helpful ideas you got from the other pair and add any other words or punctuation that will make your work even better.

Write your changes using the **red** ballpoint pen.

Give students red pens and take in the blue pens.

Stop the students after 5 minutes.

	% responses
Two-way dialogue <i>interactivity of characters:</i>	98
excellent	29
good	48
some	20
none	3
Story relates to picture: yes	76
partially/sometimes	21
no	3
Interest/originality: very high	12
good	44
some	34
little or none	10
EDITING	
Extending (at end): substantial	45
slight	30
none	25
Inserting (in middle): substantial	8
slight	17
none	75
Re-organising: substantial	1
slight	3
none	96
Deleting: substantial	1
slight	8
none	91
Grammar/punctuation/spelling: substantial	9
slight	16
none	75
Enrichment: <i>eg. richer vocabulary</i> substantial	0
slight	4
none	96

HIGH RANGE

Policeman: "This might have caused the fire"

Firefighter: "This object here?"

Policeman: "Yes it seems like a burnt out light-shade"

Firefighter: "The lightbulb must of blown, causing the fire to start and the plug to spark. The residence obviously didn't have a smoke alarm."

Policeman: "Yeah, and it's right next to the window and the curtains, so that may have triggered it off as well, don't you think?"

firefighter: "Mmm, it's a very mucky incident, with a sad ending."

Policeman: "Yeah, it's such a shame, the poor family, no home."

Firefighter: "Yeah, gone in a puff of smoke – but at that, at least the four of them came out alive. A bit of smoke inhalation, but nothing more."

Policeman: "They sure were lucky, not many people come out without serious burns to about 75% of their body"

Firefighter: "They're lucky even if they come out alive."

"Hi my name is Detective Paea and I'm looking for Mr Clarence, can you help me?"

"Yes, I'm Mr Clarence, and I believe your here to help me work out what caused this fire, right?" "YEAH."

"Well, we have 3 options" said Mr Clarence, number one: Arsonists, number two: Electrical Difficulty or number three: Falty appliances."

P "Well, looking at this floor and the smell is quite a scene, it smells like Gasealine."

C "Okay, we'll file a arsonist fire, under this one."

P "Yeah, but let's look around the house, just to check."

C "Okay then." "Look at this a bottle, of spray, paint and it's exactly the same colour as the graffetti on the wall." "I checked before with the owner of the house, that tagging on the wall wasn't there before."

MID RANGE

P "Alot of damage has been done here don't you think"

F "Yes, alot"

P "What's this"

F "You mean this"

P "I think we will take this to the station"

F "I think this must have been the child's room"

P "Yes, it must have been a toy of the childs"

F "We should take it & get finger prints."

P "Then we would have more info on how the fire started"

P "Do you know which part of the house started first?"

F "yeh, I think it started by an electric fault" in the childs room.

P "O.K see you tommorrow about the case."

Detective – Yuk I think ive found the head of the young girl that went missing

Fireman – What a terrible way to die only if we had been here earlier.

Detective – Its not your falt. What a mess its going to take a long time to clean this up.

Fireman – The family must be devastated

Detective – I think the problem started over here.

Fireman – They must have left these jeans to close to the heater.

Detective – The young girl must have fallen asleep lying next to the heater.

Fireman – lucky the had a smoke alarm to warn the rest of the family out

Detective – The girl must have been to late and all ready dead.

Policeman: So how did the fire start?

Fireman: Well I don't know really but come with me and I'll show you.

Policeman: To me it started some where on the floor.

Fireman: Well while we were in the living room we found that there was a box of matches on the floor.

Police: So the fire started from matches.

Fire: Not really because in the box of matches there was no matches in it.

Police: Then how did the fire start?

Fireman:

