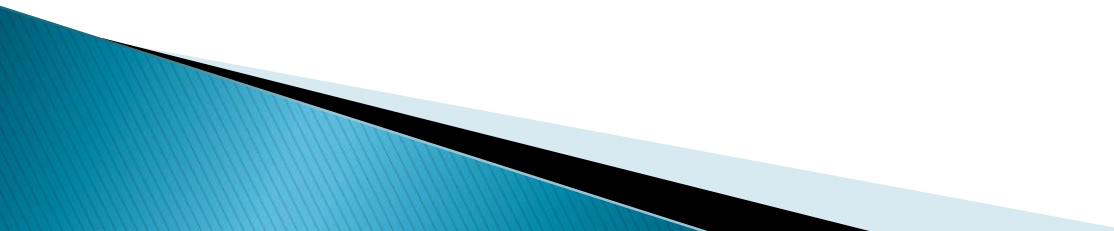


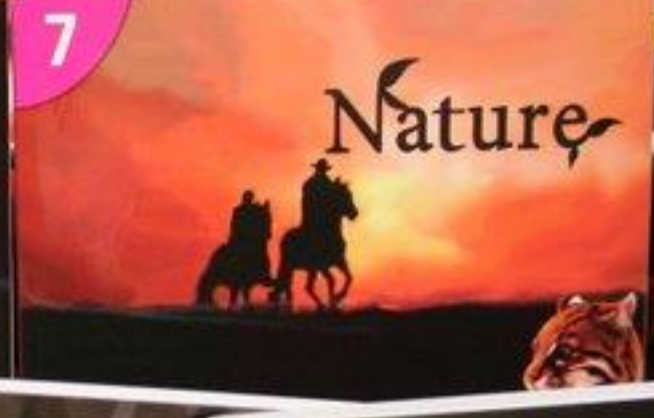
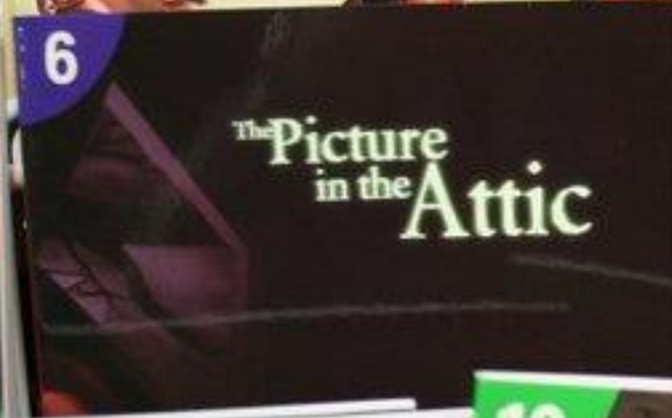
# 'He said, she said'

Sue Leather  
IATEFL, Brighton 2011

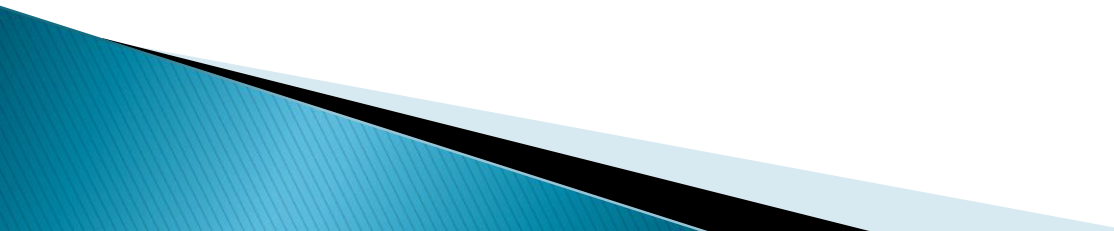


# Overview

- ▶ Why is dialogue important?
  - ▶ Three 'rules' for writing dialogue
  - ▶ Writing dialogue activity
- 



# Why is dialogue important?

- ▶ It brings us to a scene and makes us experience it in a vivid way
  - ▶ It advances the story and develops character
  - ▶ It breaks up the narrative
- 



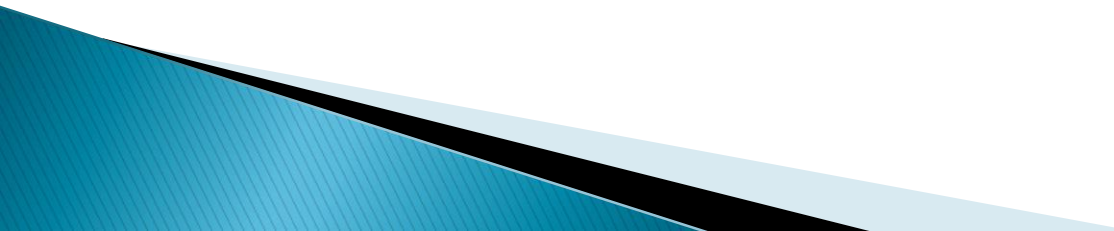
# BAD BLOOD



SUE LEATHER



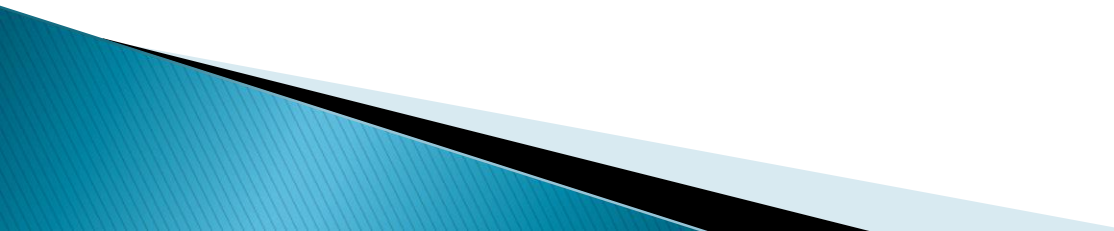
# Why is dialogue important?

- ▶ It brings us to a scene and makes us experience it in a vivid way
  - ▶ It advances the story and develops character
  - ▶ It breaks up the narrative
- 





# Three rules for writing dialogue

1. Use it to drive action or character forward
  2. Break it up with action or description
  3. Pay attention to dialogue tags
- 

# Drive action and character forward

- ▶ Dialogue has a purpose
- ▶ It sounds 'real', but it isn't
- ▶ Cut out the dull parts
- ▶ How does your dialogue move forward the plot or develop characters?



# Break it up

- ▶ Describe where the characters are
- ▶ Describe what they're doing while they speak
- ▶ *“His father carried on cutting the vegetables. ‘Ken!’ he said. ‘It’s not his business.’”*


# Pay attention to dialogue tags

- ▶ ‘He said, she said’
- ▶ Vary tags– but not too much!
- ▶ Omit tags when it’s obvious
- ▶ Avoid adverbs





# Activity

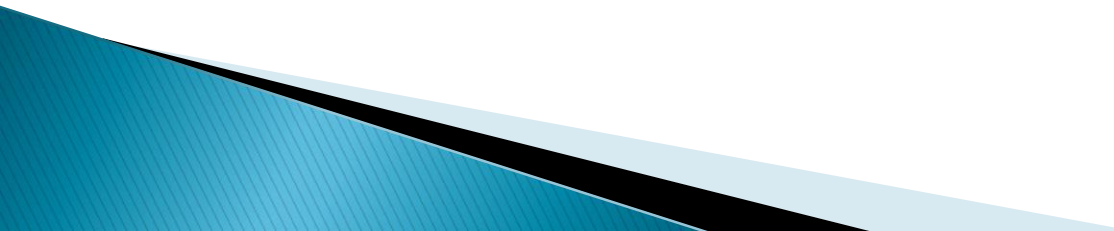
- ▶ Write a piece of dialogue, bearing in mind the 3 'rules'.
  - ▶ Jay and his father have an argument about the fact that Jay has refused to take over the restaurant. It ends with Jay saying that he will investigate the fire, and Louie telling him not to get involved.
  - ▶ (5 minutes)
- 

# BAD BLOOD



SUE LEATHER

# We talked about...

- ▶ Why is dialogue important?
  - ▶ Three 'rules' for writing dialogue
  - ▶ Writing dialogue activity
- 

# Thank you!

