

# How to Punctuate Dialog

Mr. Bockholt made his way to the front of the classroom, “Good morning, students. Today you are going to write a twenty page essay about how the political and social factors of the Elizabethan Era are reflected in Shakespeare’s *Titus Andronicus!*”

“WTF?!” shouted Jimmy.

“Oh, *H* no!” Sarah yelled.

“That dude’s been dead, for, like, 500 years,” Logan said disapprovingly. “Why do we—”

“400 years!” Mr. Bockholt corrected, a hint of annoyance in his voice. “And don’t ask me why we have to study Shakespeare. To be honest, I don’t know why. It’s just something that English teachers do.”

From the back of the classroom, Ken, a student who, until that moment, had never said a word in Mr. Bocholt’s class, asked, “*Titus Andronicus?* Isn’t that, like, Shakespeare’s most violent play?”

“Yes it is,” came Mr. Bocholt’s reply.

“Doesn’t some dude get killed and baked into a pie?”

“Yeah, it’s pretty awesome. Then that pie is given to his mom, and she eats it! Dramatic irony: it gets you every time!”

“Well, that sounds like a tasteful play.”

“It’s delicious.”