

## Snapshot + Thoughtshot + Dialogue

### From *The Reviser's Tool box* p 109

Though some writers are able to write pages of dialogue without inserting snapshots or thoughtshots, most writers build scenes. Below is a scene from an essay by Jan Wilson stripped of snapshots and thoughtshots. At the bottom of the page is the same scene with snapshots and thoughtshots. GO BEYOND exact words said to provide DETAILS about HOW things were said, expressions, etc.

"Bet he kisses mushy and wet!" my sister taunted me. I twisted around and looked at her, my elbows deep in dishwater.

"Look—just finish your dinner and be quiet. He does not either." I didn't want to discuss my boyfriend David with my blabbermouth little sister. What did she know about kissing anyway?

"Wet mushy kisses—wet mushy kisses—Janie loves David's wet mushy kisses," she singsonged to herself but clearly intended for my ears.

"Stop it. You are one little smart aleck! Mom and Dad will get mad if they hear you," I warned, trying to distract her. Actually, I admitted to myself, David's kissing wasn't any bargain but I couldn't stand her needling me.

"Does he know you stuff your bra with Kleenex?" she teased, with that smug, know-it-all, expression on her face.

"This was too much. My adolescent sensitivity burst with indignation. "I do not, you little dummy! Take this!" I scraped the soap suds off my arms and picked up a quart of milk, shoving it in her face. "If you don't hush up and be quiet I'm going to pour this right over your head." The quart was nearly full.

"You wouldn't dare," she glowered. "Dad would kill you."

"You don't think so? I would, too. You're just asking for it."

"You're chicken! You'd never do it," she said assuredly, her eyes sparkling with excitement.