



Writing about talking

Read this extract from the **legend** *King Arthur*. The brave King Arthur has been badly wounded. He wants the knight Bedivere to help him.

They took Arthur inside and laid him down to rest.

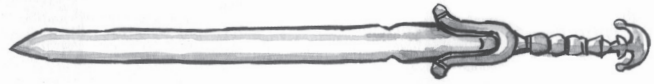
"Bedivere," rasped the king, "take my sword, Excalibur. Throw it into the lake. Then come back and tell me what you have seen."

Bedivere took Excalibur. Never in his life had he held such an exquisite sword. He could not bear to throw away such a treasure, so he hid it under a tree, then hurried back to Arthur.

"Did you do it?" Arthur asked him.

"I did, sir."

"And what did you see?"



"Nothing but the waves and the wind, my lord."

"Then you have lied to me!" cried Arthur. "Do as I commanded."

Bedivere went back to the lake. Again he admired Excalibur's unearthly beauty, again he hid it, again he lied to his king.

Arthur was growing weaker. "By Heaven," he gasped, "if you do not obey, there will be no future" He could speak no more.

Bedivere was moved by the mystery of his words. Without a word he strode back to the lake shore. This time he took Excalibur and threw it with all his strength, out into the middle of the lake.

At once, a hand rose out of the swirling waters, caught the sword, and brandished it three times. Then, out of the mist, silken voices began to chant:

"Bring him for healing, Over the water!"

Bedivere shivered. He turned and ran back to his wounded lord.

"Quick!" he called to Sir Lucan. "We must fetch the king!"

From *King Arthur*, retold by Rosalind Kerven

The writer has not used the word **said** once. Instead, she has chosen more interesting words. Find these words, and write them here.

.....
.....

List some other words that could be used instead of the following words.

said

asked



Back-cover blurbs

Here is the **blurb** from the back cover of a book.

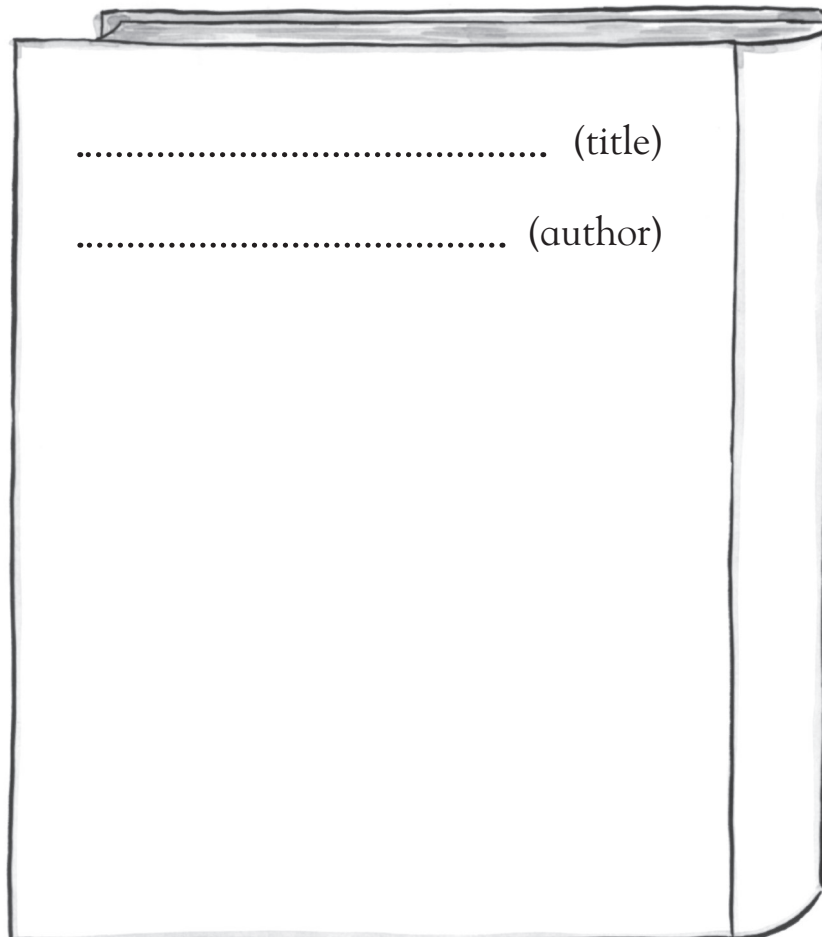
Told and retold down the centuries, the stories of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table have enthralled generation after generation.

Look at the exercise “Writing about talking” to find the **title** and **author** of the book. Write them here.

.....

If you have read this book, you could use it for the next piece of work. If not, choose a **fiction** book you have read recently. Write your own back cover **blurb** in the book below. Your **blurb** should encourage people of your age to read the book.

Remember: **Fiction** means a story invented by the writer or speaker.





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rasped, asked, cried, gasped, chant, called

.....

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asked

Answers may vary

This activity encourages your child to find examples of dialogue markers, such as *asked* and *called*. Talk about how the writer has used different dialogue markers to add interest. A dictionary and thesaurus will help in finding more dialogue markers.



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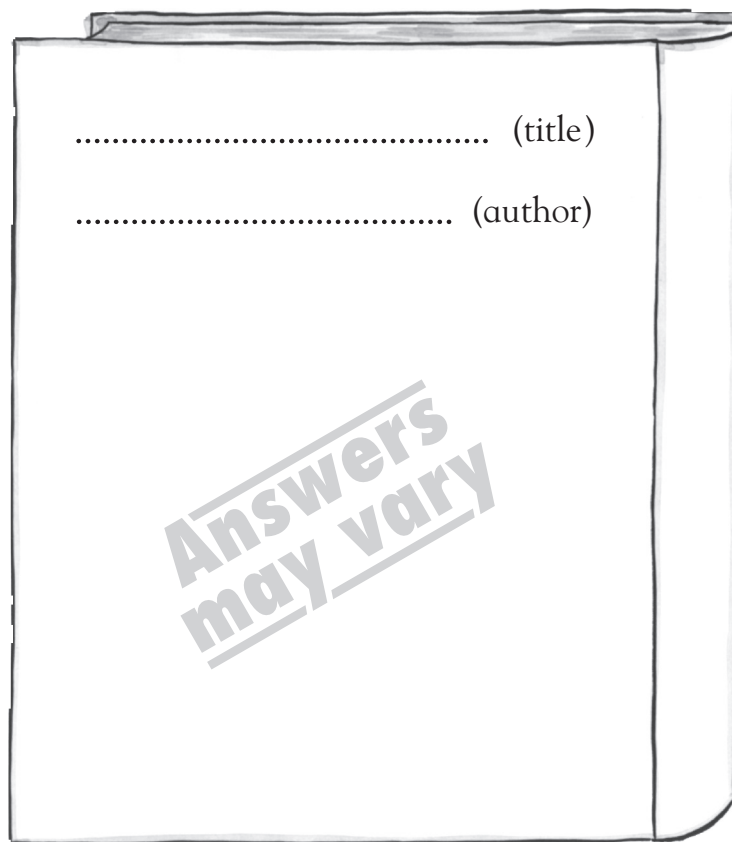
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Check that your child understands that a blurb is a short review on a book's back cover, and that he or she knows where to find a book's title and author. The blurb should be concise, interesting or exciting and give an idea of what the book is about.