

Chapters Eighteen–Twenty-One
Standards Focus: Dialect

Dialect refers to spoken language which varies from standard language. A person’s dialect may be influenced by the region where he/she lives, as well as a person’s background. An author may use dialect to make a character sound real and to establish his/her social class or educational level.

Directions: *Read each example of dialect from the novel. Rewrite each example so that it makes better sense to you. Then use the quotes to draw a conclusion about the characters in the novel.*

Mae Tuck:

1. “Well, slug-a-bed . . . You come near to missing breakfast.” (pg. 89) _____

2. “It don’t matter . . . We got plenty without. Come and get your plates, everybody.” (pg. 90)

3. Use the examples of Mae’s speech to draw a conclusion about her background, social class, and education level. _____

Angus Tuck:

4. “We was going to bring her back directly, our self. . . She ain’t been in no danger.” (pg.93)

5. “Hush boy. Let him speak his piece.” (pg. 94) _____

6. Use the examples of Angus Tuck’s speech to draw a conclusion about his background, social class, and education level. _____

The man in the yellow suit:

7. Explain how the man in the yellow suit is trying to make himself appear when he tells the Fosters, "Dreadful thing, kidnapping. Isn't it fortunate that I was a witness! Why, without me, you might never have heard a word. They're rough country people, the ones that took her. There's just no telling what illiterates like that might do." (pg. 74)

8. What is the man in the yellow suit saying about his background when he tells the Tucks, "I decided to devote my life to finding out if it could be true, and if so, how and why. I went to school, I went to a university, I studied philosophy, metaphysics, even a little medicine." (pg. 95)

9. "But I'm not going to sell it to just anybody," [the man in the yellow suit] protested. "Only to certain people, people who deserve it. And it will be very, very expensive. But who wouldn't give a fortune to live forever?" (pgs. 97-98) What is the man in the yellow suit implying that he values with his statement?

10. Contrast the Tucks' speech patterns and vocabulary with those of the man in the yellow suit.

11. Contrast the values held by the Tucks and the man in the yellow suit.
