FORTIFY A CONVERSATION

# Turning a basic conversation into an academic conversation

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In the chart below, look over the informal, non-academic transcript of a dialogue about *The Trouble with Lemons*. Create the other half of the informal dialogue in the “Basic” column. Then, in the “Fortified” column, fortify the conversation with more academic responses, as shown in the first two rows below.

Changes can include:

* Increasing the length of each message
* Using proper nouns or common nouns instead of pronouns
* Using expressions such as *in order to, however, in addition, in my opinion*
* Using evidence from the text
* Paraphrasing the speakers words back to them before adding your own thoughts

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| **SPEAKER** | **BASIC** | **FORTIFIED** |
| **A** | I think that whole professional wrestling thing probably has to be important or the author wouldn’t have put it in. | In my opinion, the scene in which Tyler and Chuckie visit the professional wrestling show, found in the text on pages 76-78, seems to be a random aside, but I have decided that it must have some significance to the story or Daniel Hayes would not have included it in the story. |
| **B** | But why? | That’s an interesting thought. I noticed that that scene seemed out of place as well. It never occurred to me that it was significant to the story. Why do you believe that is the case? |
| **A** | Well, most authors don’t just stick stuff in. They have to have a reason. |  |
| **B** | Okay. So what do you think is the reason? |  |
| **A** | Well, I saw that Chuckie gave Tyler a talk about good guys and bad guys. |  |
| **B** | Yeah, I saw that too. Maybe that has to do with the theme of the story somehow. |  |
| **A** | Yeah, it seems like Tyler looks at people as either being good or bad. Maybe people aren’t really all good or all bad. |  |
| **B** | Yeah, I bet Tyler’s going to learn something about the good guys having some bad parts, and the bad guys having some good parts. |  |