

CHRISTMAS STORMS AND SUNSHINE

COPY MASTER

Grammar and Style**ESTABLISH VOICE**

An author's **voice** is his or her unique style of expression. Gaskell uses a conversational style that sounds as if she is sharing gossip with a friend. She includes her readers in her story by addressing them directly with the second-person pronoun *you*. She also uses parenthetical asides that give information about the characters and their habits, as in this example:

When she came down (later than usual), she found the household in a commotion. What do you think had happened? (lines 274–275)

Directions: The following paragraph is a sample response to the writing prompt on page 1009. Rewrite the paragraph, adapting it to mimic Gaskell's voice. Be sure to add direct comments to the reader as well as parenthetical asides that seem to convey inside information about the characters.

Jared had lived on the block all of his life. He viewed the stone bench in the community garden as his. The neighbors even called it "Jared's bench." When Jared's best friend T.J. moved away, he spent most of the summer reading on his bench. When Alison's family moved into T.J.'s apartment, Jared tried to ignore them. But he couldn't ignore the fact that Alison started to use his bench.