# Reported speech

Rewrite the following text in **reported speech**. It has been started for you. Continue on a separate sheet of paper if necessary.
**Remember**: **Reported speech** reports what the characters have said, rather than quoting their actual words. **Reported speech** is in the **past tense** and has no quotation marks.

The Queen propped her up against a tree, and said kindly, "You may rest a little, now."

Alice looked round her in great surprise. "Why, I do believe we've been under this tree the whole time! Everything's just as it was!"

"Of course it is," said the Queen: "what would you have it?"

"Well, in our country," said Alice, still panting a little, "you'd generally get to somewhere else – if you ran very fast for a long time, as we've been doing."

"A slow sort of country!" said the Queen. "Now, *here*, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

"I'd rather not try, please!" said Alice. "I'm quite content to stay here – only I am so hot and thirsty!"

"I know what you'd like!" the Queen said good-naturedly, taking a little box out of her pocket. "Have a biscuit!"

From *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll

The Queen propped her up against a tree and told her kindly that she

Most authors use a mixture of **reported** and **direct speech**. Why do you think they do this?

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