Directions: Highlight or underline the parts of the text where you learn something about Rowdy (characterization).

From *The Absolutely True Dairy of a Part-Time Indian*, pg. 48-49

So the day after I decided to transfer to Reardan, and after my parents agreed to make it happen, I walked over to the tribal school, and found Rowdy sitting in his usual place on the playground.

He was alone, of course. Everybody was scared of him.

“I thought you were on suspension, dickwad,” he said, which was Rowdy’s way of saying, “I’m happy you’re here.”

“Kiss my ass,” I said.

I wanted to tell him that he was my best friend and I loved him like crazy, but boys didn’t say such things to other boys, and *nobody* said such things to Rowdy.

“Can I tell you a secret?” I asked.

“It better not be girly,” he said.

“It’s not.”

“Okay, then, tell me.”

“I’m transferring to Reardan.”

Rowdy’s eye’s narrowed. His eyes always narrowed right before he beat the crap out of someone. I started shaking.

“That’s not funny,” he said.

“It’s not supposed to be funny,” I said. “I’m transferring to Reardan. I want you to come with me.”

“And when are you going on this imaginary journey?”

“It’s not imaginary. It’s real. And I transferring now. I start school tomorrow at Reardan.”

“You better quit saying that,” he said. “You’re getting me mad.”

I didn’t want to get him mad. When Rowdy got mad it took him days to get un-mad. But he was my best friend and I wanted him to know the truth.

“I’m not trying to get you mad,” I said. “I’m telling the truth. I’m leaving the rez, man, and I want you to come with me. Come on. It will be an adventure.”

“I don’t even drive through that town,” he said. “What makes you think I want to go to school there?”

He got up, stared me hard in the eyes, and then spit on the floor.

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Questions:

1. What should you do when you write dialogue? Observations? Rules? Fill this out after you read the text…
2. How does the dialogue help create characterization?
3. What are active verbs, and how should you use them in your own writing?

*Example:*

I ran away vs. I sprinted away vs. I darted away.