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Autore	Kozloff Sarah
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Sommario/riassunto	Since the birth of cinema, film has been lauded as a visual rather than a verbal medium; this sentiment was epitomized by John Ford's assertion in 1964 that, ""When a motion picture is at its best, it is long on action and short on dialogue."" Little serious work has been done on the subject of film dialogue, yet what characters say and how they say it has been crucial to our experience and understanding of every film since the coming of sound.