

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

1. Use quotation marks to begin and end a direct quotation.

Waid said, "You hurt my feelings."

**Note:** Quotation marks are not used unless a person's exact words are quoted. Do not use quotation marks to set off an indirect quotation (often signaled by the word "that").

Sarah said that her feelings were hurt.

2. A quotation usually begins with a capital letter.

Mr. Waid commented, "My students are the best students at RFK."

**Note:** Brief quotations that are obviously incomplete often begin with a small letter.

I wonder who first called this nation "the land of the free."

**SUPER NOTE:** If the speaker of this incomplete quotation can be identified, we call it an **embedded quotation**.

Mr. Waid called his students "the best students at RFK."

3. To punctuate a direct quotation, enclose the exact words used by the speaker or writer in quotation marks.

Commas and periods at the ends of quotes are ALWAYS placed inside the quotation marks.

The Chief of Staff said, "The senator is here to see you."

"The Cubs will certainly win the World Series this year," said Mr. Waid.

4. Put question marks and exclamation points inside the quotation marks if they are part of the quote.

"How deep is the Pacific Ocean?" asked Sarah.

"Help!" cried the shepherd boy. "There's a wolf eating my sheep!"

5. Put question marks and exclamation points outside the quotation marks if they are not part of the quote.

Did Lincoln say "malice toward one" or "malice toward none"?

6. Enclose parts of a divided quotation in quotation marks. Do not capitalize the first word of the second part unless it begins a new sentence.

"If the rain stops by noon," they asked, "will we still play the baseball game?"

"We have cancelled the game," said the coach. "The field is just too muddy."

7. The quotation itself can be separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma, a question mark, or an exclamation point.

"If I could find something decent to wear," he sighed, "we could leave for the party."

"Where did I put that sweater?" he muttered, rummaging through his closet.

He cried, "I found it!" as he yanked a crumpled bundle from the overhead shelf.

8. In punctuating dialogue, begin a new paragraph to indicate a new speaker.

"Romeo," whispered Juliet.

"What?"

"I love you."

9. Use **quotation marks** to enclose the titles of short stories, poems, magazine articles, and songs. The titles of books, newspapers, magazines, plays, movies, and television series are underlined in writing, *italicized in print*.

10. Single quotation marks are used to enclose items that appear inside double quotation marks.

Harry asked, "Which character says, 'Jump up and catch a Kungry'?"

"Finish the short story 'The Most Dangerous Game' for Monday," announced the teacher.

11. In writing about literature, there are several different ways to cite sources. For us here, simply put all quoted material inside quotation marks, followed by the author's name and the number of the page on which the quote is found (use line numbers for poetry), followed by the end punctuation.

In "Kungry," excerpted from *Black Boy*, the boy apparently thinks that beating the gang was a good thing because by doing it he "won the right to the streets of Memphis" (Wright 2).

**Note:** Give the author up front, and you don't need it at the end.

In the Stevie Smith poem "Not Waving But Drowning," the speaker declares that he was "much too far out" his whole life (line 11).

## QUOTATION NATION

**We will be using quotations as supporting evidence in our essays.  
To learn how to do this, we'll be looking at four "kinds" of quotes.**

### 1. EMBEDDED QUOTATIONS

These are the best quotations for evidence. They help make your essay flow and your argument strong.

### 2. HE SAID, SHE SAID

These are also good for support, especially mixed in with **embedded quotes**.

### 3. ISOLATED QUOTES

They often follow **he said, she said**s in stories and newspaper articles. They're no good for evidence.

### 4. SPECIAL WORDS

These aren't even real quotes.

How about some examples and practice!

#### EMBEDDED QUOTATIONS

Mr. Waid called his students "the best students at RFK."

The Cubs are certainly "the greatest group of players ever assembled" Waid says every year.

**(Embedded quotations need both the stuff inside and outside the quotation marks to form a complete sentence.)**

**((AND YOU CAN FIGURE OUT WHO IS SAYING IT.))**

#### HE SAID, SHE SAID

"Mama, I'm hungry," I complained one afternoon.

"Well, your father isn't here now," she said.

My mother warned me, "Don't you come in here."

**(Complete sentence inside the quotation marks plus who said it and sometimes how.)**

#### ISOLATED QUOTES

"What's a kungry?"

"Then stay in the streets; don't come back here!"

**(An isolated quote starts and ends with quotation marks. Period.)**

#### SPECIAL WORDS

"Kungry" is a short excerpt from the memoir *Black Boy*, by Richard Wright.

So far this semester we have also read "The Last Spin," by Evan Hunter.

"Good" students are simply those that do their work.

I've always wondered what it meant to be a "good teacher."

Oh yeah. Those shoes are really "nice."

**(Titles for a start, plus apologetic words/phrases and those meant to be "ironic.")**

#### TRY SOME!

Richard Wright writes that his mother "slammed the door" and he could hear "the key turn in the lock."

He reports that he "shook with fright."

In the end, Wright was happy because "that night [he] won the right to the streets of Memphis."

Wright wrote his "biography" based on his memory of his life growing up.

"Please, let me wait until tomorrow," I begged.

"They b-beat m-me," I gasped.

"They t-t-took the m-money."

"Well, your father isn't here now," she said.

"Where is he?"

"I don't know," she said.

"But I'm hungry," I whimpered, stomping my feet.

I hope that this stuff turns out to be "easy" for you to figure out.