

Literacy Lesson 2: Using Quotations

Quotation Marks (sometimes called *Speech Marks*) are used to attribute the enclosed text to someone else. In other words, they tell the reader that the words inside have been said by a person or character.

A. In groups of 2 or 3, work out where the 4 pairs of quotation marks should be; then feedback to the class.

From Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens...

Oliver Twist and his companions suffered the tortures of slow starvation for three months. At last they got so voracious and wild with hunger, that one boy who was tall for his age, hinted darkly to his companions that unless he had another basin of gruel, he was afraid he might some night happen to eat the boy sleeping next to him, who happened to be a weakly youth of tender age. He had a wild, hungry eye and they implicitly believed him. A council was held; lots were cast for who should walk up to the master after supper that evening and ask for more; and it fell to Oliver Twist.

The evening arrived; the boys took their places. The master, in his cook's uniform, stationed himself at the copper; his pauper assistants ranged themselves beside him; the gruel was served out; and a long grace was said over short commons. The gruel disappeared; the boys whispered to each other and winked at Oliver; while his next neighbours nudged him. Child as he was, he was desperate with hunger, and reckless with misery. He rose from the table; and advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said, somewhat alarmed at his own temerity,

Please, sir, I want some more.

The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed with stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds; and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralyzed with wonder, the boys with fear.

What! said the master at length, in a faint voice.

Please, sir, replied Oliver, I want some more.

The master aimed a blow at Oliver's head with the ladle, pinioned him in his arms, and shrieked aloud for the beadle.

B. Now think of some words to go inside the following 9 pairs of quotation marks:

From Charlie & the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl...

Charlie entered the shop and laid the damp fifty pence on the counter.

“ [REDACTED], ” he said, remembering how much he had loved the one he had on his birthday.

The man behind the counter looked fat and well-fed. He had big lips and fat cheeks and a very fat neck. The fat around his neck bulged out all around the top of his collar like a rubber ring. He turned and reached behind him for the chocolate bar, then he turned back again and handed it to Charlie. Charlie grabbed it and quickly tore off the wrapper and took an enormous bite. Then he took another ... and another ... and oh, the joy of being able to cram large pieces of something sweet and solid into one's mouth! The sheer blissful joy of being able to fill one's mouth with rich solid food!

“ [REDACTED], ” the shopkeeper said pleasantly. Charlie nodded, his mouth bulging with chocolate.

The shopkeeper put Charlie's change on the counter. “ [REDACTED], ” he said. “ [REDACTED]. ”

Charlie went on wolfing the chocolate. He couldn't stop. And in less than a minute, the whole thing had disappeared down his throat. He was quite out of breath, but he felt marvellously, extraordinarily happy. He reached out a hand to take the change. Then he paused. His eyes were just above the level of the counter. They were staring at the silver coins lying there. The coins were all five-penny pieces. There were nine of them altogether. Surely it wouldn't matter if he spent just one more ...

“ [REDACTED], ” he said quietly, “ [REDACTED]. ”

“ [REDACTED]? ” the fat shopkeeper said, reaching behind him again and taking another Whipple-Scrumptious Fudgemallow Delight from the shelf. He laid it on the counter.

Charlie picked it up and tore off the wrapper ... and suddenly ... from underneath the wrapper ... there came a brilliant flash of gold.

Charlie's heart stood still.

“ [REDACTED]! ” screamed the shopkeeper, leaping about a foot in the air. “ [REDACTED]. ”

[REDACTED]! ”

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

That's all Folks!