Embedding Quotations

GCSE English · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Embed 'solitary oyster' in an analytical sentence.

Step 1 · Start with the writer and an idea

'Dickens presents Scrooge off from others…'

Step 2 · Slot in the quotation

'…comparing him to an oyster: "solitary oyster"…' (clumsy) → '…as "solitary oyster"…' (smooth)

Step 3 · Finish with analysis

'…a simile suggesting a hard, closed shell that might hide something precious.'

Answer: 'Dickens presents Scrooge as "solitary oyster", a simile suggesting a hard, closed shell that might hide something precious.'

Check: Read aloud: the sentence flows.

2. Now try one with the steps

Cut a long quotation down to its key words.

Step 1 · Long

Step 2 · Choose the richest words

Step 3 · Embed both

Answer:

3. Practice

Show your working. The marks tell you how much is expected.

1. How many words should most quotations be? Give a range. [1]

2. What symbol marks a line break when quoting verse? [1]

3. What does an ellipsis inside a quotation show? [1]

4. What is a 'dropped' quotation? [1]

5. Embed 'Bah! Humbug!' in a sentence about Scrooge. [2]

6. Fix the grammar: 'Romeo says that he 'O, I am fortune's fool!'' [2]

7. Embed 'ape-like fury' in a sentence about Hyde. [2]

8. Why is close reference acceptable when you cannot remember exact words? [1]

9. Shorten and embed: 'I have no spur to prick the sides of my intent, but only vaulting ambition'. [2]

10. Weave three micro-quotations from Scrooge's Stave 1 description into one analytical sentence. [2]

11. Quote across the line break and analyse: Romeo and Juliet Prologue, 'From forth the fatal loins of these two foes / A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life'. [3]

12. Zoom in on one word: in 'Look like th' innocent flower, / But be the serpent under't', which word would you analyse and why? [2]

13. Why do short quotations help AO2? [2]

14. When should you avoid using square brackets to change a quotation? [1]

4. Before you hand it in

Quoting whole sentences or speeches.
Quote the two or three key words and analyse them.

Dropped quotations: 'Scrooge is cold. "solitary oyster".'
Build the quotation into your own sentence.

Misquoting from memory.
Learn fewer quotations accurately; use close reference when unsure.

Quoting then paraphrasing ('This means he is ambitious').
Explore methods and connotations of the quoted words.