

Bell, Marks, Meaning

Notice how precise conventions guide a reader through an informational model.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.2 “Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle every comma, semicolon, colon, quotation mark, and dash. Underline each capitalized proper name, then number the sentence-ending marks to notice how conventions guide the reader.

The Liberty Bell's Changing Story

- ① Inside Philadelphia's Independence Hall, visitors can see a bell with a famous crack. The Liberty Bell was cast in London in 1752, then recast twice in Philadelphia after the first versions broke. Its inscription, "Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof," comes from Leviticus. Although people often connect the bell with the signing of the Declaration of Independence, historians have found no evidence that it rang on July 4, 1776. Its powerful story grew over many years.
- ② By the 1830s, abolitionists had adopted the bell as a symbol of freedom. They called it the Liberty Bell, a name that spread through newspapers, speeches, and antislavery publications. Later, suffragists used its image in their campaign for voting rights. The bell's crack is not a single clean line, however; it has been repaired more than once. Caretakers do not strike the bell today because vibrations could worsen the damage. Instead, visitors hear its history through exhibits, recordings, and guides.
- ③ Protecting the Liberty Bell requires careful choices. To protect the bell, climate-control systems limit changes in temperature and humidity; barriers prevent contact. The National Park Service also watches for new signs of stress: tiny changes near the crack can matter. These precautions serve two goals, preserving the bell and allowing people to study it. A historic object cannot explain itself, but its details - from the crack to its inscription - can raise questions. Why did different groups choose this bell, and how did its meaning change? The answers connect an object to a larger national story.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why is Leviticus capitalized in paragraph 1?

2 Copy the complete direct quotation from paragraph 1, including its quotation marks.

3 Copy the sentence in paragraph 2 that uses a semicolon to join two closely related complete thoughts.

4 What punctuation mark appears after stress in paragraph 3, and what words does it introduce?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences, 40 to 60 words total, about a real or imagined landmark. Use a correctly capitalized proper name, a direct quotation with quotation marks, one semicolon or dash, one colon that introduces a list, and at least one correctly spelled compound word.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle every comma, semicolon, colon, quotation mark, and dash. Underline each capitalized proper name, then number the sentence-ending marks to notice how conventions guide the reader. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is Leviticus capitalized in paragraph 1?	It is the title of a book of the Bible.
2	Copy the complete direct quotation from paragraph 1, including its quotation marks.	"Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants thereof,"
3	Copy the sentence in paragraph 2 that uses a semicolon to join two closely related complete thoughts.	The bell's crack is not a single clean line, however; it has been repaired more than once.
4	What punctuation mark appears after stress in paragraph 3, and what words does it introduce?	A colon. It introduces "tiny changes near the crack can matter."

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

On Saturday, I visited Riverbend Observatory with my cousin. The guide said, "Look through the telescope," before we watched Jupiter rise; its bright bands looked like painted clouds. My well-organized notebook listed three details: four moons, a swirling storm, and a red glow near the horizon.

For Part 3, accept any accurate or plausible landmark description that has exactly three sentences and 40 to 60 words. Check that the required capitalization, punctuation, and compound-word spelling are used correctly.