Notebook Voices

Read a model scene to study dialogue and direct quotations.

6.LU.2.B "Use and punctuate dialogue and direct quotations appropriately in writing."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every set of quotation marks, circle each speaker tag, and number the commas that sit next to dialogue. This will help you see how spoken words and quoted words are punctuated.

The Library Notebook

1. On Saturday, Maya visited the Riverbend Museum to help prepare a small exhibit about the town's first library. Curator Mr. Bell placed an old notebook on a table. “This belonged to Ada Pierce, the first librarian,” he explained. Maya leaned closer and asked, “May I read the page about opening day?” Mr. Bell nodded. “Use the gloves first,” he said. The notebook smelled faintly of dust, but its careful handwriting made Maya picture a busy room filled with readers.

2. One entry described the library's opening morning. Maya read aloud, “Children arrived before the doors opened, and some carried lists of books they hoped to borrow.” Mr. Bell smiled and said, “That sentence shows why the library mattered.” Maya copied the words into her notes and wrote that the sentence came from Ada Pierce's notebook. Then she asked, “Did the library have many books at first?” “Only three hundred,” Mr. Bell answered, “but neighbors donated more every year.”

3. Before leaving, Maya helped make a label for the exhibit. She wrote, “Ada Pierce welcomed young readers and recorded their excitement in her notebook.” Mr. Bell checked the label. “Your summary is clear,” he told her, “and the quotation gives visitors Ada's own voice.” Maya added the notebook's date beneath the label. As she packed her bag, she said, “I want to visit the library this week and see what stories people borrow now.” The old notebook had turned a local history project into a question Maya wanted to explore.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy Maya's question about reading the page. Include the quotation marks and question mark.

2. Copy the sentence that introduces the words from Ada Pierce's notebook. Include the comma before the quotation.

3. In Mr. Bell's answer about the number of books, what words come before the speaker tag, and what words come after it?

4. Why are commas used after “clear” and after “her” in Mr. Bell's comment on the label?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum scene. Include one spoken line followed by a speaker tag, and include a direct quotation from a made-up journal with a lead-in. Use quotation marks, commas, and end punctuation correctly.

ANSWER KEY

Notebook Voices

GRADE 6 · 6.LU.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every set of quotation marks, circle each speaker tag, and number the commas that sit next to dialogue. This will help you see how spoken words and quoted words are punctuated. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy Maya's question about reading the page. Include the quotation marks and question mark.	**“May I read the page about opening day?”**
2	Copy the sentence that introduces the words from Ada Pierce's notebook. Include the comma before the quotation.	**Maya read aloud, “Children arrived before the doors opened, and some carried lists of books they hoped to borrow.”**
3	In Mr. Bell's answer about the number of books, what words come before the speaker tag, and what words come after it?	**Before: “Only three hundred,” After: “but neighbors donated more every year.”**
4	Why are commas used after “clear” and after “her” in Mr. Bell's comment on the label?	**The speaker tag, “he told her,” splits one line of dialogue, so commas separate the dialogue from the tag.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

“The map is missing,” Nia said. She opened the explorer's journal and read, “The river bends near the tallest pine.” “We should look there,” Omar replied.

Accept responses with exactly three sentences, a dialogue-first speaker tag, and a journal quotation introduced by a lead-in. Check that quotation marks, commas, and end punctuation are placed correctly.