Words Worth Quoting

Read a model scene and examine how writers punctuate spoken and quoted words.

7.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 in the passage. Circle the comma or period that belongs with each quotation so you can see how punctuation works with spoken and quoted words.

Labels at the Museum

1. On Saturday, Maya met her uncle at the city museum to help label a new space exhibit. He pointed to a cracked rock behind glass and said, “This meteorite traveled farther than any airplane.” Maya leaned closer. “How do scientists know where it came from?” she asked. “They compare its minerals with minerals in other space rocks,” Uncle Ren replied. Maya copied his words into her notebook, placing quotation marks around the sentence he had spoken.

2. At the next display, a volunteer tested the microphone for a short planetarium talk. “Please take your seats,” she announced, “and look up at the dome.” Maya noticed the comma after seats, then listened. Later, the volunteer explained, “The moon does not make its own light. It reflects sunlight.” Uncle Ren whispered, “That fact will help visitors understand the model.” Maya wrote a label using the volunteer's exact words from the talk for a visitor brochure.

3. Before leaving, Maya checked each label for clear punctuation. One label read, “A meteorite is a rock from space,” and she added a comma before the closing quotation mark. Another label quoted a researcher: Dr. Ellis wrote, “Studying meteorites helps us learn about the early solar system.” Her uncle read the display aloud. “Careful punctuation helps readers,” he said, “follow a speaker's exact words.” Maya placed the finished labels beside the exhibits near the entrance.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Copy Maya's question from paragraph 1 exactly as it appears, including punctuation.

2. Why is there a comma after the word seats in the volunteer's first spoken sentence?

3. Copy the volunteer's two-sentence explanation about the moon exactly as it appears, including quotation marks and punctuation.

4. In the sentence with he said in paragraph 3, what words and punctuation come before the dialogue tag?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence scene at a museum exhibit. Include one spoken line with the dialogue tag after the spoken words and one direct quotation from an exhibit sign or source. Use quotation marks, commas, capitals, and end punctuation correctly.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 7 · 7.LU.2.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every set of quotation marks in the passage. Circle the comma or period that belongs with each quotation so you can see how punctuation works with spoken and quoted words. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Copy Maya's question from paragraph 1 exactly as it appears, including punctuation.	**"How do scientists know where it came from?"**
2	Why is there a comma after the word seats in the volunteer's first spoken sentence?	**The comma separates the first part of the spoken sentence from the dialogue tag, she announced, before the same sentence continues.**
3	Copy the volunteer's two-sentence explanation about the moon exactly as it appears, including quotation marks and punctuation.	**"The moon does not make its own light. It reflects sunlight."**
4	In the sentence with he said in paragraph 3, what words and punctuation come before the dialogue tag?	**"Careful punctuation helps readers,"**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

"This whale model is enormous," Lena said as she looked up. A sign beside it stated, "Blue whales are the largest animals known to have lived." Her brother replied, "I want to measure its length."

Accept answers that accurately copy quotations and include quotation marks and punctuation. In the open response, accept any original three-sentence scene with a correctly punctuated spoken line, a dialogue tag after that line, and a correctly punctuated direct quotation from a source.