



## Quotation Marks in the Dialogue of a Story

These examples of how to punctuate dialogue in a story come from S. E. Hinton's, *The Outsiders*.

### A sentence of dialogue followed by narration.

- **Page 5:** "Hey, grease," one said in an over-friendly voice.
- **Page 43:** "It's the truth," Johnny said with a bleak grin.

### A sentence of dialogue preceded by narration.

- **Page 24:** Johnny gulped and got a little pale, but he said, "You heard me. Leave her alone."
- **Page 27:** We were all four sitting there in silence when suddenly a strong hand came down on Johnny's shoulder and another on mine and a deep voice said, "Okay, greasers, you've had it."

### A sentence of dialogue with narration in the middle of it.

- **Page 39:** "You must make such interestin' conversation," he'd say, cocking one eyebrow, "you keepin' your mouth shut and Johnny not sayin' anything."
- **Page 41:** "No," Cherry said bleakly, "it's Randy and Bob."

### A sentence of dialogue ending with an *exclamation point*.

- **Page 7:** "Look!" He showed me the handkerchief, reddened as if by magic.
- **Page 43:** "It ain't fair!" I cried passionately.

### A sentence of dialogue ending with a *question mark*.

- **Page 25:** "How old are y'all?" Marcia asked.
- **Page 63:** "Now how do we find Jay Mountain?" I asked Johnny.

## Quotation Marks and Titles

### **Short Stories, Poems, Chapters, and Songs:**

Use **quotation marks** around the **title** of a short story, poem, chapter, or song.

- **Short Story:** Ray Bradbury wrote “Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed” about living on the planet Mars.
- **Poem:** “Casey at the Bat” is a poem about baseball.
- **Chapter:** “Blood Type” is the chapter where Edward skips class.
- **Song:** My favorite song is “Achilles Last Stand” by Led Zeppelin.

Write the **period** inside the quote marks if the **title** is at the end of a sentence.

- **Short Story:** Nag is a mean snake in “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi.”
- **Poem:** Emily Dickinson wrote the poem, “If I Can Stop One Heart from Breaking.”
- **Chapter:** We find out that Artemis wants to find a book in “Translation.”
- **Song:** My favorite song is “Achilles Last Stand.”

Write the **comma** inside the ending quotation mark when the **title** is part of an part of a list, in an appositive, or before a coordination conjunction.

- **Short Story (list):** The students said they enjoyed reading “Seventh Grade,” “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi,” and “Dark They Were, and Golden Eyed” last year.
- **Poem (appositive):** Lewis Carroll’s famous poem, “The Jabberwocky,” is just a small part of the book he wrote.
- **Chapter (appositive):** In the second chapter, “Secrets,” Mo tells Meggie they have to leave their home right away.
- **Song (coordinating conjunction):** I like “Believe,” and I love The Bravery.



### **Books, Albums, and Movies:**

**Note:** Use **italics** (*typing*) or **underline** (handwriting) for the **title** of a book, album, or movie.

- **Book:**
  - You may leave your *Language of Literature* book at home, but you must bring your *InterActive Reader* to class.
  - You may leave your Language of Literature book at home, but you must bring your InterActive Reader to class.
- **Album:**
  - “I Turn My Camera On” is a song from Spoon’s album, *Gimme Fiction*.
  - “I Turn My Camera On” is a song from Spoon’s album, Gimme Fiction.
- **Movie:**
  - We all went to the movies to see *Transformers* on opening night.
  - We all went to the movies to see Transformers on opening night.