

Quotation Marks Literature and Writing Connections

**I use sentence strips and macaroni noodles to introduce quotation mark usage in a hands-on way. I print sentences including dialog ahead of time on sentence strips and have students work to collaborate on punctuating the sentences correctly. Since I can check student work visually, and provide coaching if necessary, I can gain quick informal assessment as to who is ready for independent practice concerning this skill and who needs additional support from me. Since the macaroni noodles are removed, I can reuse the sentence strips each year without creating the materials all over again. Best yet, I don't need to take home papers to grade at the end of the lesson! For a full explanation of the activity with example sentences, see "Quotation Marks" under GrammarSongs Writing Skill Activities.

**Using comic strips to practice punctuating dialog correctly is another quick activity to put quotation mark usage in a lesson-friendly format. "Are you ready for action?" Batman asked Robin. "Off to the Batmobile!" Robin shouted.....

** It is important for children to explore how quotation marks are used by authors in authentic literature. Allow students to work in small groups or with a partner to find examples in books of quotation mark usage. Be sure to ask students/children to verbalize WHY the quotation marks are needed for each example found.

Suggested Books:

Quotation Marks by Mary Elizabeth Salzmann

If You Were Quotation Marks by Molly Blaisdell