

Troubleshooting on Tuesday

How to Use Quotations in a Book Review

Short quotations taken directly from a work of literature can be included in a Book Review to give insight into the setting, plot or characters. Including quotations also gives the reader a taste of the author's writing style and helps support the reviewer's opinion about the book. Quotations must be selected with a purpose in mind and inserted into the Book Review with care.

In a Book Review, you should:

Limit the length of the quotations you include from a work of literature so that each one packs a punch rather than makes your reader wander.

Focus on richly descriptive short passages or excerpts from longer passages that help prove a point.

Provide some kind of set-up or explanation of the quotations you include so that it is clear why they were chosen.

Put quotation marks around any words, phrases or sentences that you take directly from the book.

Make sure capitalization and punctuation make sense within your paragraph.

Avoid italicizing the quotations or indenting them in any special way.

Important Warning: Composing a Book Review is much different from most of the writing you will do in school. In addition to it being more conversational in tone, the way you incorporate, capitalize and punctuate quotations differs greatly from how you will do this for other types of writing. A good writer can employ skills, standards and stylistic choices to match the writing's specific purpose and audience. He or she knows the rules ...and, most importantly, when it's OK to break these rules!