

Integrating Quotations

1. Blend your lead-in and quotation.

Cyrano feels that to look fashionable is to “dress up like a popinjay” (45).

Caesar wisely senses that Cassius should not be trusted because he has “a lean and hungry look” (I.ii.204).

2. Use a complete sentence lead-in. Follow with a colon before the quotation.

****Use caution here! There MUST be a relationship between the lead-in sentence before the colon and your chosen quotation after the colon. The quotation after the colon must be a complete sentence.**

Harper Lee describes Walter Cunningham perfectly: “He looked as if he were raised on fish food” (22).

Even though her feelings are hurt, Paikea protects her grandfather’s sexism: “It’s not Koro’s fault that I’m a girl” (Whale Rider).

3. Use an introductory phrase or clause.

According to Miss Maudie, “People in their right minds never take pride in their talents” (98).

As Atticus explained, “You never really know a person until you climb into his skin and walk around in it for a while” (30).

4. Split the quotation.

“If growing up is painful for the Southern black girl,” claims Maya Angelou, “being aware of her displacement is the rust on the razor that threatens the throat” (3).

5. Use the author’s name and/or his authority to introduce quotations from secondary sources.

Carolyn Wilkerson Bell, of Magill’s Literary Annual, describes Toni Morrison’s Beloved as “excruciating to read, impossible to put down” (Bell 88).

6. Sprinkle your discussion with key phrases and terms, which should be surrounded with quotation marks.

The “dark, brooding disappointment” described by Morrison is really a natural part of life, and therefore not that surprising (45).