

Pendemonium

Unnatural Selection: Quotation Marks

Teacher's Guide

Grade Level: 6–8

Curriculum Focus: Language Arts

Lesson Duration: One class period

Program Description

Learn about quotation marks when Dark Marker tries to genetically alter animal species. Students retrace Darwin's voyage to the Galápagos Islands as they work to stop Dark Marker's attempts to put himself at the pinnacle of evolution.

Onscreen Questions

- What are quotation marks?
 - When do we use quotation marks?
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Lesson Plan

Student Objectives

- Identify quotation marks.
- Categorize and demonstrate the uses of quotation marks in an observation diary.

Materials

- *Unnatural Selection: Quotation Marks* video
- Paper, pencils, and markers
- Newspapers or age-appropriate works of fiction
- Print resources

Procedures

1. After viewing the video, reinforce the video's concepts by presenting materials from books about quotation marks listed under *Print Resources*.
2. Review the uses of quotation marks. Ask students to provide examples of direct quotations, words they can emphasize with quotation marks, and titles that require quotation marks.

3. Discuss the uses of direct quotations. Draw attention to their placement depending on the quotation's position within a sentence, as well as the ending punctuation (period or comma). Tell students that quotation marks are also used for book chapters, articles, episodes of television shows, songs, stories, and poems. Write these uses on the board.
4. Ask students to find direct quotations in works of fiction or newspapers. Have students rewrite a few sentences without quotation marks and discuss how the sentences' meanings can change without the use of quotation marks. Have them also find newspaper headlines and article titles and practice using quotation marks with titles.
5. Review the setting of *Unnatural Selection: Quotation Marks* and the animals the four characters saw in the Galapagos Islands. Explain that Charles Darwin's scientific conclusions were based on careful observations recorded in diaries.
6. Ask students to make their own diaries using memories of the previous day's activities and conversations. Remind students that their main objective is to demonstrate the correct use of quotation marks. Encourage students to record their daily observations, including school events, after-school activities, conversations with their friends and family, music they listened to, or television programs they watched.
7. Make a list on the board with daily events the students can recall and record in their diaries. Refer students to the list of the uses of quotation marks and direct them to begin their own diaries. Tell students that these diaries should not refer to personal events, but should instead maintain a scientific tone of observation. Remind them to focus on details.
8. Have volunteers read some entries and explain their uses of quotation marks.
9. Create a classroom bulletin board about quotation marks and display pages from student diaries.

Assessment

Use the following three-point rubric to evaluate students' work during this lesson.

- **3 points:** Students clearly identified at least three uses of quotation marks; constructed a scientific diary full of details and different types of quotation marks; clearly demonstrated the importance of observing details in a scientific manner.
- **2 points:** Students identified three uses of quotation marks; constructed a scientific diary with some details and some types of quotation marks; demonstrated the importance of observing details in a scientific manner.
- **1 point:** Students were unable to identify three uses of quotation marks; failed to construct a scientific diary with details or any types of quotation marks; did not demonstrate the importance of observing details in a scientific manner.

Vocabulary

details

Definition: Small and intricate characteristics that make something unique

Context: Sherlock Holmes was a great detective because he noticed details that others missed.

direct quotation

Definition: The exact words spoken by a person, placed within quotation marks

Context: The principal wrote a direct quotation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: "I have a dream today."

observation

Definition: The process of using all five senses to closely examine a subject

Context: Josh made a careful observation of his cereal this morning and concluded it was oatmeal with raisins.

scientific diary

Definition: A place to record scientific observations

Context: The scientific diary has observations on page 3 about last night's dinner.

Print Resources

- Angelillo, Janet. *A Fresh Approach to Teaching Punctuation*. Teaching Resources, 2002. This source uses mini-lessons, partner and group activities, and familiar authors to help students understand and use punctuation. All grades.
- Collins, Susan. *Quotation Marks: Teaching the Basics about Quotation Marks, Without Putting Students to Sleep*. Cottonwood Press, 1999. Uses a monster theme and language students can understand; students write their own material. All grades.
- Halverson, Jim. *Punctuation Puzzles and Mazes: Ready-to-Go Reproducibles*. Scholastic, 2001. Ages 9–12. Teacher-friendly publication that uses games to teach punctuation. Grades 4–7.
- Jarnicki, Harold. *No Boring Practice, Please! Punctuation and Capitalization*. Teaching Resources, 2005. Engaging practice pages and easy-to-score quizzes help students learn and teachers assess. Includes crosswords, word searches, and other activities. Grades 4–7.

Academic Standards

The National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

The National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association have developed national standards to provide guidelines for teaching the English language arts. To view the standards online, go to <http://www.ncte.org/about/over/standards/110846.htm>.

This lesson plan addresses the following national standards:

- Students apply knowledge of language structure, language conventions (e.g., spelling and punctuation), media techniques, figurative language, and genre to create, critique, and discuss print and non-print texts.
- Students use spoken, written, and visual language to accomplish their own purposes (e.g., for learning, enjoyment, persuasion, and the exchange of information).

Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)

McREL's Content Knowledge: A Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks for K-12 Education addresses 14 content areas. To view the standards and benchmarks, visit <http://www.mcrel.org/compendium/browse.asp>.

This lesson plan addresses the following national standards:

- Language Arts: Viewing – Uses conventions of punctuation in written compositions (e.g., quotation marks)
 - Science: Scientific Method – Knows that good scientific explanations are based on evidence (observations) and scientific knowledge
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DVD Content

This program is available in an interactive DVD format. The following information and activities are specific to the DVD version.

How to Use the DVD

The DVD starting screen has the following options:

Play Video – This plays the video from start to finish. There are no programmed stops, except by using a remote control. With a computer, depending on the particular software player, a pause button is included with the other video controls.

Video Index – Here the video is divided into sections indicated by video thumbnail icons; brief descriptions are noted for each one. Watching all parts in sequence is similar to watching the



video from start to finish. To play a particular segment, press Enter on the remote for TV playback; on a computer, click once to highlight a thumbnail and read the accompanying text description and click again to start the video.

Standards Link – Selecting this option displays a single screen that lists the national academic standards the video addresses.

Teacher Resources – This screen gives the technical support number and Web site address.

Video Index

I. The Need for Quotation Marks (7 min.)

Dark Marker steals *The Point's* quotation marks. Penny explains how quotation marks quote someone word for word. Dottie sprays Dark Marker with mutation spray and gives him a huge mustache.

Pre-viewing question

Q: What are quotation marks?

A: Quotation marks are small punctuation marks that emphasize someone's words.

Post-viewing question

Q: Why do we need quotation marks?

A: Quotation marks avoid confusion and emphasize someone's words.

II. Using Quotation Marks for Direct Quotation (3 min.)

The team uses quotation marks to figure out Dark Marker's clues and travel to the Galapagos Islands.

Pre-viewing question

Q: Besides using quotation marks to show a direct quotation, how else might we use them?

A: We might use quotation marks to draw extra attention to a word.

Post-viewing question

Q. Where do we place a period in relation to a direct quotation?

A. We place a period just inside the last quotation mark.

III. Using Quotation Marks for Titles (7 min.)

The team explores animals on the Galápagos Islands such as the tortoise, iguana, hammerhead shark, and penguin. They solve Dark Marker's clues using quotation marks with titles. Dark Marker continues to evolve.



Pre-viewing question

Q. What punctuation mark do we use for many kinds of titles?

A. We use quotation marks for many kinds of titles.

Post-viewing question

Q. What kinds of titles do not require quotation marks?

A. Answers may include book titles.

IV. Review of Quotation Marks (6 min.)

The team reviews quotation marks. Using quotation marks correctly, they defeat Dark Marker and save *The Point*.

Pre-viewing question

Q: How do we use periods and commas with quotation marks?

A: We put a period inside the last quotation mark and a comma before the first quotation mark.

Post-viewing question

Q: What do we do with a quotation that is in two parts?

A: We use two sets of quotation marks.