

# DIALOGUE AND RULES FOR QUOTATIONS

THE EMMETT TILL CASE



# DIALOGUE

*A dialogue is a fancy way of saying conversation.*

"Hello, class," greeted Miss Hartwig.

The class responded, "Hello, Miss H!"

"I hope you brought your supplies today," Miss Hartwig explained, "because we have a lot to do."



# QUOTATION JARGON

*Quotation* - The exact words that somebody has said.

*Tag* - The words that explain who has spoken and how it was done. This is NOT part of the quotation.

"Emmett Till was a fourteen year old boy from Chicago," *Miss Hartwig explained.*

In the above example, "Emmett Till was a fourteen-year-old boy from Chicago" is the quotation and *Miss Hartwig explained* is the tag.





**Emmett Till**

Identify the quotation and the tag in the line below.



"MY NAME IS EMMETT TILL," EMMETT SAID.



**Emmett Till**

Identify the quotation and the tag in the line below.



"MY NAME IS EMMETT TILL," EMMETT SAID.



Identify the quotation and the tag in the line below.

"MY MOM IS MAMIE BRADLEY," DECLARED EMMETT.





Identify the quotation and the tag in the line below.

EMMETT DECLARED, "MY MOM IS MAMIE BRADLEY."



# PUNCTUATION IN DIALOGUE

There are several different pieces of punctuation that you will learn to use effectively while writing dialogue.

**\*\*Warning\*\*** You WILL need to be able to use this punctuation correctly to achieve a good grade and to succeed in writing.

Quotation Marks " "

Comma ,                      Period .

Exclamation Point !

Question Mark ?



# PUNCTUATION IN DIALOGUE

Quotation marks surround the quotation. They give it a hug.

Commas serve as a period after a quotation that is declarative or imperative.

Periods are used at the end of a sentence, though not necessarily at the end of a quotation. Look below.

"In the summer of 1955, Emmett Till begged his mom to let him go to Mississippi," Miss Hartwig explained.

Notice that the comma ends the quotation and introduces the tag, but the period ended the sentence.



# PUNCTUATION IN DIALOGUE

When there is a question or an exclamation in the quotation, you will use the question mark or exclamation point with the quotation, but the tag will still have a period if it is an end tag.

"Do you know why Emmett Till is famous?" Miss Hartwig asked.

"I can't wait to find out why!" exclaimed Alex.

\*Can you tell why the following sentence is incorrect?

"Did you know he went to Mississippi to stay with his cousins," Miss Hartwig asked?





MAMIE TILL MOBLEY

"EMMETT TILL DID GO STAY WITH HIS COUSINS AND HIS UNCLE MOSES IN MONEY, MISSISSIPPI," MISS HARTWIG SAID.

MRS. REIF ADDED, "HE WAS AN OUTGOING BOY AND VERY POPULAR."



# EMMETT TILL

"One day, he made a mistake," Miss Hartwig began, "and he paid for it dearly. He went into a store where a white woman was working, and he whistled at her."



This quote has a middle tag. Notice how there are commas to introduce the tag and the rest of the quotation.



# EMMETT TILL

Mr. Fuhrmann asked, "Why is that a big deal?"

"Men who whistle at women are pigs. It's very rude!" Miss Robinson exclaimed.

"While it is rude," Miss Hartwig began, "it was a very big deal back then in the South."

When you start a new speaker, you have to start a new paragraph, even if that paragraph is only one line. Of course, these paragraphs should also be indented.



# EMMETT TILL - YOUR ASSIGNMENT

Go home tonight and ask someone what he/she knows about Emmett Till.

Write out ten lines of your conversation using the punctuation rules you've just learned.



# EMMETT TILL - YOUR ASSIGNMENT

"But wait Miss Hartwig," Allie interjected, "what if my dad doesn't know anything about Emmett Till?"

"Ask your dad to help you look online, and write ten lines of dialogue that you have while searching," Miss Hartwig answered.



# EMMETT TILL - ASSIGNMENT EXAMPLE

"Hey, Mom," I began, "can I ask you a question?"

Mom replied, "Sure, what's up?"

"What do you know about Emmett Till?" I asked.

**\*\*You need to have at least two front tags, two middle tags, and two end tags. The rest can be what you want.**

**\*\*You can only use "said" one time!**

