

Lesson 8

Punctuating Titles

Teaching

Quotation marks, italics, and underlining used correctly in titles show what kind of work or selection is named.

Quotation Marks Use quotation marks to set off the titles of short works.

Book chapter	"The Sailboat Race," from <i>Stuart Little</i>	Magazine article	"Travel the Unbeaten Path"
Short story	"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"	Song	"Star Spangled Banner"
Essay	"Civil Disobedience"	Poem	"O Captain! My Captain"

Italics and Underlining Use italics for titles of longer works and for the names of ships, trains, spacecraft, and individual airplanes (not the type of plane). In handwriting, use underlining to indicate words that should be in italics in printed material.

Book	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i>	Epic poem	<i>The Iliad</i>
Play	<i>My Fair Lady</i>	Painting	<i>View of Toledo</i>
Magazine	<i>Newsweek</i>	Ship	<i>Lusitania</i>
Movie	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>	Train	<i>Super Chief</i>
Long musical selection or CD	<i>Victory at Sea</i>	Airplane or Spacecraft	<i>Endeavour</i>

Punctuating Titles Correctly

Write each sentence, using quotation marks or underlining correctly to set off titles.

- Did Mr. Talbot see *Death of a Salesman* when it was on Broadway?

- Thoreau wrote *Civil Disobedience* and the much longer work, *Walden*.

- The guest star sang *People Will Say We're in Love* from the musical *Oklahoma!*

- View of Toledo* is by the great Spanish painter El Greco.

- O Captain! My Captain!* is a poem by Walt Whitman.

- We rode the *Orient Express* to Istanbul.

- Mark Twain wrote the historical novel *The Prince and the Pauper*.

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More Practice

A. Punctuating Titles Correctly

In each sentence below, insert quotation marks where needed and underline words that should be italicized.

1. How many times has Abby read Little Women?
2. Do you know why The Surprise Symphony got that name?
3. Clare loves the poem Eletelephony.
4. NASA built the Endeavour following the explosion of the Challenger.
5. The Gift of the Magi is a famous short story by O. Henry.
6. Have you ever seen Pablo Picasso's famous antiwar painting Guernica?
7. Naomi read Robert Frost's poem Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.
8. George Gershwin wrote music not only for Broadway musicals such as Of Thee I Sing, but also for the concert hall, for example, Rhapsody in Blue.
9. When exactly did the Titanic sink?
10. There is a famous song called City of New Orleans.

B. Punctuating Titles Correctly

Use each title given in parentheses in a sentence, punctuating the title correctly.

1. (traditional song: Yankee Doodle) _____

2. (book by L. Frank Baum: The Wizard of Oz) _____

3. (short story by Washington Irving: The Legend of Sleepy Hollow) _____

4. (poem by Edgar Allan Poe: The Raven) _____

5. (cruise ship: Queen Mary) _____

6. (play by William Shakespeare: A Midsummer Night's Dream) _____

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Application

A. Punctuating Titles Correctly

Even good friends may have different tastes in books, music, movies, and so on. In the chart below, write your own favorites in the various categories listed. Then write the name of a friend or family member and list his or her favorites, too. (Be sure to ask the person about his or her choices first.) Use quotation marks or underlining to show italics.

	My Favorite	_____’s Favorite
Book		
Short Story		
Ship		
Movie		
Song		
CD or Tape		
Poem		
Play		

B. Punctuating Titles Correctly in Writing

Review the chart above. Then write a paragraph in which you identify which of the choices were easy and which were difficult. Mention some of the other works that you wanted to include in the chart. Or, if you have enough information from the friend or family member referred to in the chart, write the paragraph discussing his or her choices.

Review A: Underlining (Italics) and Quotation Marks

EXERCISE Add underlining and quotation marks as needed in the following sentences.

Example 1. The poem “My Last Duchess” is one of my favorites by Browning.

1. Many Walt Disney films, such as Bambi and The Jungle Book, are back again.
2. Sometimes I listen to Ravel’s famous long musical work Bolero when I study.
3. Aunt Fran sent our family a subscription to the magazine Birds and Blooms.
4. Dad suggested, Read the article called Best Buys in Bicycle Helmets.
5. Byron’s long poem titled Don Juan fills an entire book!
6. Here’s my copy of Anne of Green Gables, said Mother.
7. USA Today covers the news of all fifty states.
8. Did Columbus sail on the Santa María or on another ship? asked Larry.
9. Everybody Loves Raymond is Uncle Emil’s favorite television series.
10. Kelly exclaimed, Look, that hockey game we saw is on the cover of Sports Illustrated!
11. Listen to this music from the ballet The Rite of Spring.
12. When I was a child, said Aunt Minnie, the U.S. flag had forty-eight stars.
13. The episode showing tonight is Crisis in Central City.
14. His article, How to Excel in Soccer, will be published soon.
15. Who said, It’s one thing to build castles in the air; it’s another thing to live in them?
16. One third of my cousin’s shelf is filled with Seventeen magazines.
17. I need two more weeks, she said, to finish reading them all.
18. Poems such as Edward Lear’s The Owl and the Pussycat are nonsense poems.
19. When I return The Yearling, I’ll owe the library about twenty-five cents.
20. Did you finish reading it? Mrs. Casper asked.