

# Punctuating Titles: Underlining, Italics, and Quotation Marks

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

Use **ITALICS** (or underlining when handwriting) for the titles of **LONG** works that stand on their own: novels and other books, movies, plays, magazines, newspapers, and music albums. Use **QUOTATION MARKS** for the titles of **SHORT** works that are part of something larger: poems, short stories, song titles, magazine or newspaper articles, book chapters, and TV episodes. Never use **BOTH** italics and quotation marks on the same title, and never leave a title with no marking at all. (In the choices below, words written between \* marks are shown in italics.)

## PRACTICE

Choose the best answer. Words shown between *asterisks* are in italics.

- Which sentence shows the title of a **NOVEL** punctuated correctly?
  - We read the novel "Bridge to Terabithia" in class.
  - We read the novel Bridge to Terabithia in class.
  - We read the novel *"Bridge to Terabithia"* in class.
  - We read the novel *Bridge to Terabithia* in class.
- Which sentence shows the title of a **POEM** punctuated correctly?
  - My favorite poem is "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost.
  - My favorite poem is *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost.
  - My favorite poem is The Road Not Taken by Robert Frost.
  - My favorite poem is *"The Road Not Taken"* by Robert Frost.
- Which sentence shows the title of a **MOVIE** punctuated correctly?
  - We watched the movie "Hidden Figures" last weekend.
  - We watched the movie Hidden Figures last weekend.
  - We watched the movie *Hidden Figures* last weekend.
  - We watched the movie *"Hidden Figures"* last weekend.
- Which sentence shows the title of a **SONG** punctuated correctly?
  - The choir sang *This Land Is Your Land* at the assembly.
  - The choir sang "This Land Is Your Land" at the assembly.
  - The choir sang This Land Is Your Land at the assembly.
  - The choir sang *"This Land Is Your Land"* at the assembly.



5. Which sentence shows the name of a NEWSPAPER punctuated correctly?
- A. My grandfather reads *\*The New York Times\** every morning.
  - B. My grandfather reads "The New York Times" every morning.
  - C. My grandfather reads The New York Times every morning.
  - D. My grandfather reads *"The New York Times"* every morning.
6. Which sentence shows the title of a SHORT STORY punctuated correctly?
- A. We discussed the short story *\*All Summer in a Day\** in reading group.
  - B. We discussed the short story All Summer in a Day in reading group.
  - C. We discussed the short story *"All Summer in a Day"* in reading group.
  - D. We discussed the short story "All Summer in a Day" in reading group.
7. Which sentence shows the name of a MAGAZINE punctuated correctly?
- A. The article appeared in "National Geographic" last month.
  - B. The article appeared in *\*National Geographic\** last month.
  - C. The article appeared in National Geographic last month.
  - D. The article appeared in *"National Geographic"* last month.
8. Which sentence shows the title of a magazine ARTICLE punctuated correctly?
- A. I read the article *\*Why Bees Matter\** for my report.
  - B. I read the article Why Bees Matter for my report.
  - C. I read the article "Why Bees Matter" for my report.
  - D. I read the article *"Why Bees Matter"* for my report.
9. Which sentence shows the title of a PLAY punctuated correctly?
- A. Our class is performing *\*A Midsummer Night's Dream\** in May.
  - B. Our class is performing "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in May.
  - C. Our class is performing A Midsummer Night's Dream in May.
  - D. Our class is performing *"A Midsummer Night's Dream"* in May.
10. For each title below, write 'italics' or 'quotation marks' to show how it should be punctuated: (a) the novel Holes, (b) the song Lean on Me, (c) the magazine Time, (d) the poem Stopping by Woods, (e) the movie Toy Story.

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## Answer Keys

- 1  A  B  C  D
- 2  A  B  C  D
- 3  A  B  C  D
- 4  A  B  C  D
- 5  A  B  C  D

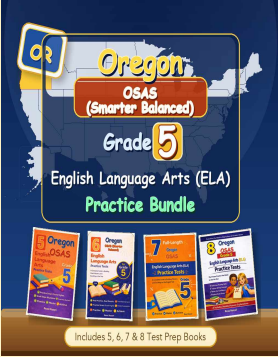
- 6  A  B  C  D
- 7  A  B  C  D
- 8  A  B  C  D
- 9  A  B  C  D
- 10

### Explanations

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>1. D</b> | A novel is a long work that stands on its own, so its title goes in italics. A wrongly uses quotation marks (those mark SHORT works). B leaves the title unmarked. C wrongly uses both italics AND quotation marks — pick one, never both.                                      |
| <b>2. A</b> | A poem is a SHORT work, so its title goes in quotation marks. B wrongly uses italics (those mark LONG works). C leaves the title unmarked. D wrongly uses both italics AND quotation marks.   |
| <b>3. C</b> | A movie is a long work that stands on its own — its title goes in italics. A wrongly uses quotation marks. B leaves the title unmarked. D wrongly over-marks with both italics AND quotation marks.   |
| <b>4. B</b> | A song is a short work — usually part of a larger album — so its title goes in quotation marks. A wrongly uses italics (those are for LONG works). C leaves the title unmarked. D over-marks with both italics AND quotation marks.   |
| <b>5. A</b> | A newspaper is a long work that stands on its own — italics. B wrongly uses quotation marks (those mark short works like ARTICLES inside the newspaper). C leaves the title unmarked. D over-marks with both italics AND quotation marks.                                       |
| <b>6. D</b> | A short story is a SHORT work — usually printed inside a larger collection — so its title goes in quotation marks. A wrongly uses italics. B leaves the title unmarked. C over-marks with both italics AND quotation marks.   |
| <b>7. B</b> | A magazine is a long work that stands on its own — italics. A wrongly uses quotation marks (those mark the ARTICLES inside the magazine, not the magazine itself). C leaves the title unmarked. D over-marks with both italics AND quotation marks.                             |
| <b>8. C</b> | An article is a SHORT work that lives inside a larger magazine, so its title goes in quotation marks. A wrongly uses italics (those would be for the magazine itself). B leaves the title unmarked. D over-marks with both italics AND quotation marks.                         |
| <b>9. A</b> | A play is a long work that stands on its own — italics. B wrongly uses quotation marks (those mark short works like poems and songs). C leaves the title unmarked. D over-marks with both italics AND quotation marks.  |
| <b>10.</b>  | <b>Answer:</b> (a) italics; (b) quotation marks; (c) italics; (d) quotation marks; (e) italics.<br>Long works that stand on their own — novels, magazines, and movies — go in italics. Short works that are part of something larger — songs and poems — go in quotation marks. |



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