

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.



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

1. D	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.
2. A	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.
3. C	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.
4. 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.
5. A	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.
6. D	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.
7. 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.
8. C	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.
9. A	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.
10.	Answer: (a) italics; (b) quotation marks; (c) italics; (d) quotation marks; (e) italics. 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.

