



Literacy Lesson 7: Inverted Commas

Inverted commas are used to acknowledge words or phrases that are have a special meaning.

A: *Inverted commas* are sometimes used to acknowledge **the title of a book, play or film**:

- In the play ‘Macbeth’ by William Shakespeare, Macbeth kills King Duncan. *This helps us tell the difference between the title and the main character.*
- “Have you seen ‘Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows’ yet?” Mr Baker asked his students in assembly. *This helps us identify the title of the film (otherwise it might have been two films!).*

B: *Inverted commas* can also be used to acknowledge **slang/informal speech** within formal language:

- “I think that it is ‘sic’ and ‘phat’ that the 2012 Olympics are coming to Great Britain” said Mr Scarborough to his GCSE PE class.

C: Finally, *Inverted commas* can be used to emphasise (i) **a brief quotation** or (ii) **a cliché**:

- ‘Determination’ isn’t just important because it is an Olympic & Paralympic Value... it’s important if you want to survive in *life*.
- “What do you mean, ‘lost your homework?’ ” asked Mr Daly, reaching for the Bunsen burner.

Main Task: Insert the missing inverted commas:

Who deserves the 2010 title of “World’s Strongest Man?”

Harry Potter looks a lot older in “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.”

“Stop pretending you’re some sort of “Gangsta” and wear your kit properly”
said Miss Jukes.

“Helpfulness” isn’t one of the Olympic and Paralympic values,
but “Respect” is.

Extension Task: If you have time, think of another 4 sentences
which use inverted commas:

1.

2.

3.

4.