

Using passages from texts in your own writing.

1. If the text you are quoting is not longer than four typed lines, insert in your own text and place it in quotation marks.
2. Help your reader understand the context of the quotation: the speaker and the situation.

Here's an example.

Boo clearly desires to be a part of the children's society, yet they are ambivalent in their feelings about his actions toward them.

Although they appreciate his gifts and his repairing Jem's pants,

Scout is moved to physical distress when Atticus suggests she might someday thank Boo Radley for placing a blanket around her shoulders during the fire. Her unfounded fear of her neighbor is so great that, as she explains, her "stomach turned to water and I nearly threw up when Jem held out the blanket and crept toward me" (72).

If God speaks to you and tells you that your quotation **MUST ABSOLUTELY** exceed four lines, use a block quotation.

The reader realizes, as has Jem, that Scout does not comprehend the full value of Mayella's testimony when the young narrator recounts:

Somehow, Atticus had hit her hard in a way that was not clear to me, but it gave him no pleasure to do so. He sat with his head down, and I never saw anybody glare at anyone with the hatred Mayella showed when she left the stand and walked by Atticus's table. (188)

While Atticus clearly understands that Bob Ewell has beaten his own daughter, this possibility never occurs to a girl whose own father is a model of decorum, kindness, and morality.