

Quoting From A Short Story

When you write about a short story or refer to a short story in an essay, you will frequently need to quote from it. Below are some rules to follow when you quote the words or title of a short story.

Rule 1: Whenever you mention the title of a short story, put quotation marks around it.

Jerome Bixby's short story "It's A Good Life," conveys to the reader a sense of powerlessness and despair. The characters are tormented by the psychic powers of a young boy who cannot comprehend the difference between good and evil.

Rule 2: Whenever you quote words that appear in a short story, put quotation marks around them.

Bill Soames feels such a strong urge to get away from Anthony that he wishes he could pump his bicycle pedals "twice as fast, to get away from Anthony all the faster" (Bixby 2).

Rule 3: Integrate the quoted material within your sentence.

The towns-people must cater to the child's wishes for positive thinking and saying happy things like "good," or "say that's swell" (Bixby 2), to avoid displeasing him.

Square brackets allow you to add your own words to change a quote to make it fit within a sentence.

As for watching television, "nobody really thought much about that, [after all there was no electricity to make it function properly,] it just had to be put up with" (Bixby 9) by all the guests.

Rule 4: The author's last name is put in brackets at the end of the quote followed by the page number that the quote appears on. If a punctuation mark is needed, it is put at the end of the brackets.

Rule 5: Whenever you quote four or more lines, indent the passage from both margins, but do not use quotation marks. Cite such a long passage only if it is especially significant. Introduce the quotation, copy the lines, and then explain the relevance of the quotation afterwards.

After drinking too much alcohol, Dan shows his frustration about being refused to play the record:

Dan shook off the hand Sipich put on his arm. 'Can't even play my record,' he said loudly. He looked down at the record, and then around at their faces. 'Oh, my God...' He threw the glassful of brandy against the wall. It splattered and ran down the wallpaper in streaks. Some of the women gasped. 'Dan,' Sipich said in a whisper. 'Dan, cut it out—' (Bixby 10).

Anthony decides that this outburst makes Dan a "bad man" (Bixby 10) and turns him into a monstrosity.