

Short Story Elements

in “Gentlemen, Your Verdict”
by Michael Bruce

Flashback & Framed Narrative

A **flashback** is when an earlier event is inserted into the normal chronological order of events

- How is flashback used in the story?

A **framed narrative** is when a story is contained within another story. We can say that the outside story *frames* the inner story.

- Is this story an example of a framed narrative?

Direct vs. Indirect Characterization

- **Direct characterization** = when the author explicitly tells us what a character is like
- **Indirect characterization** = when the author implies what a character is like. We (readers) interpret the character through her/his thoughts and actions.

Integrating Quotations

Using Quotations

Use quotations to provide direct textual evidence of your claim.

Things to remember:

- Always introduce the quotation using your own words first.
- Put the exact words of the author in quotation marks.
- At the end of the sentence, put the author's last name and page number in brackets. If are only using one text, you can omit the author's last name in subsequent quotes.
- End the sentence with a period, outside the bracket.

Method #1: Sentence + Colon + Quote

Introduce the quotation with a complete sentence and a colon.

The short story ends with Miss Ralston's decision: "Next week Alma Niles and Joyce Shipley will go for the water" (Hart 22).

Method #2: Dialogue phrase + Comma + Quote

Use an introductory phrase, but not a complete sentence, separated from the quotation with a comma.

Make sure your phrase includes a dialogue tag: *says*, *thinks*, *believes*, *explains*, *states*, *narrates*, *asks*, et cetera

When Scout finds out about the prejudiced jury, she narrates, “Atticus had used every tool available to free men to save Tom, but in the secret courts of men’s hearts Atticus had no case” (Lee 323).

Method #3: Blended without punctuation

Make the quotation a part of your own sentence without any punctuation between your own words and the words you are quoting.

In his final speech, Lieutenant-Commander Oram describes his team as “the finest crew [he’s] ever seen” before proceeding to carry out the deaths of the non-married men (Bruce 2).

Special Cases: Dialogue within a quotation

- If your quotation contains dialogue, use single quotation marks for the dialogue.
- Surround the entire quotation with double quotation marks as normal.

Special Cases: Changing a quotation

- If you need to slightly change the words inside a quotation so it reads smoothly and correctly, put the changes in square brackets. This should only be used to clarify or align the grammar.
- Original quotation: “I think you’re the finest crew **I’ve** ever seen”
(2)
- In his final speech, Lieutenant-Commander Oram describes his team as “the finest crew **[he’s]** ever seen” before proceeding to carry out the deaths of the non-married men (Bruce 2).

Special Cases: Omitting parts of a long quote

- If you have a very long quotation and don't need something in the middle, you can replace the part with an ellipsis (...)
- DO NOT use an ellipsis just because you are too lazy to write out the whole quote! This is meant only for parts of the quotation that are not directly relevant to your piece of evidence.
- It is evident that the event has traumatizing effects: “Lieutenant Paull tried to shut out the voice with his fingers in his ears . . . Each sentence struck the lieutenant like the lash of a whip” (Bruce 1).

Tips for Using Quotations

- Choose quotes wisely and use them sparingly
- Aim for 1-2 quotes per body paragraph—no more than 2!
- **Always introduce** the quote with your own words. Never leave it hanging by itself.
- **Always explain** the significance of the quote after. How does it provide evidence for your argument?

Practice

Pick a quote from this passage on page 2. Integrate it using all 3 methods.

Then Oram spoke, his voice harsh and clipped.

“Men,” he grated, “the shore station reports our tender is wrecked and on fire. The other one is in dry dock, as you know, and can’t get here for a week. They have contacted all the planes they can and the earliest any help can arrive is between six and seven days. We had air for less than two days for all of us. Now there will be air for all five of you for seven days. Obey my last orders. Mr. Paull, you will take command. Men, remain alive and take your orders from Mr. Paull. You can still serve your country. Your job is to wait.”

Was Lieutenant-Commander Oram a good leader? Why or why not?

- 200 word paragraph
- Include 2 quotations from the story, correctly integrated
- Be argumentative and not subjective
- Use academic language

3 Methods of Integrating Quotations - Examples

1.	Sentence + colon + quote	Lieutenant-Commander Oram commends his crew during his final speech: “I think you’re the finest crew I’ve ever seen, let alone commanded” (Bruce 2).
2.	Dialogue phrase + comma + quote	In his final speech, Lieutenant-Commander Oram says, “I think you’re the finest crew I’ve ever seen, let alone commanded” (Bruce 2).
3.	Blended with no extra punctuation	In his final speech, Lieutenant-Commander Oram describes his team as “the finest crew [he’s] ever seen” (Bruce 2).