

3.4 Embedding Quotes

Hop and Hip are in the computer lab at school, working on their research papers. Hip, big grin on face, grabs his paper out of the printer and heads over to Hop.

Hip: I'm done! One week early! And Miss Malaprop said this would take two weeks to finish! I started today, I finished today. I'm a genius!

Hop: Hip, there's no way you started and finished today. Let me see that.

Hip hands it over to Hop and Hop looks it over.

Hop: Hip, you have no original words in this entire paper!

Hip: What are you talking about? It's got tons of words - 4 pages worth!

Hop: 4 pages of other people's words.

Hip: Yes, Miss Malaprop said we needed at least 2 sources. I used 4 excellent sources.

Hop: You stole from 4 excellent sources.

Hip: I did not! I quoted from those sources and I even used proper MLA format to cite all of my quotes!

Hop: But 98% of your paper is quotes!

Hip: Quotes from excellent and reliable sources explaining what the "The Scarlet Ibis" means.

Hop: But what do you think it means?

Hip: *(Hip grabs the paper and starts reading it)* Doodle's miniature coffin symbolizes his parents' expectation of Doodle's imminent death which is clearly contradicted by the narrator's actions.

Hop: What does that mean, Hip?

Hip: You heard me. I'll read it again.

Hop: No, you need to know what that means.

Hip: You heard what it means.

Hop: I heard what someone else thinks it means. What's the point of the story, Hip?

Hip: It's about this kid who dies.

Hop: That's all you got?

Hip: My paper says the rest.

Hop: Miss Malaprop wants to know what you think of the story.

Hip: So I've got to go back and read the story, I guess.

Hop: Yes, and decide what you think it means. THEN, use quotes to support your interpretation.

(Later that night, Hop comes over to Hip's house. Hip has Kanye West blaring in his room)

Hop: So how's your paper coming?

Hip: I think I know what the story means...what I think it means.

Hop: Good. What does it mean?

Hip: The point is that the narrator regrets how he treated his little brother. Doodle was a little miracle that taught them all how to live, but then he died.

Hop: That's good, Hip.

Hip: But that's just what I think.

Hop: Then that's what you write about.

Hip: So how do I use those embedded quote things you and Miss Malaprop talk about?

Hop: You quote from the story – examples that support what you just said. And you can quote from experts who support what you just said.

Hip: How?

Hop: You know like when Kanye mixes voices together. He might have a Michael Zigson beat and then he mixes a bar from the *Sugar Hill Gang* and then, later in the song, Jay-Z makes an appearance?

Hip: Yeah, I love that!

Hop: Yeah. It's like that. Kanye gets the idea going for the song; it's his concept; his idea. Then he mixes in other sources that support his idea, that give it richness, depth, power.

- Hip: Those are like the sources for my paper?
- Hop: Yeah. You find sources that support your interpretation. Then, you weave them into your argument, quoting along the way. Their quotes should be short and effective, like Kanye's posse. He never let's them dominate the song; they're just there to support.
- Hip: Like in "The Scarlet Ibis" how Doodle made up stories about people who could fly – he was telling people that they could fly, that they could achieve their dreams. That detail supports my interpretation.
- Hop: That's good, Hip. Now slide that piece of evidence (with quotation marks) into our own sentence, the one you just said before. Just like Kanye would slide in a Jay-Z line.
- Hip: Doodle's stories were lessons for those around him, teaching them that they "all had wings and could fly wherever they wanted to go" in life.
- Hop: Beauteous, Hip! I see your interpretation, and you're using words from your source, the story, to back it up with evidence.
- Hip: Much better, huh?
- Hop: Worlds better. Hip, you're a true scholar and a master mixologist. Kanye would be proud.
- Hip: And hopefully, Miss Malaprop will be too.

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