Name: _____ # _____

Direct Quotations

Focus:

A direct quotation is the exact words that someone has thought, written, or said.

Direct quotations are used by writers to show a conversation or dialogue. When creating dialogue, a writer must begin a new paragraph each time the speaker changes.

Mary asked, "When is the Valentine's Party?"

"February 14," replied Elle.

"I can't wait! My Valentine's box is awesome!" exclaimed Mary.

In order to show a direct quotation, writers use punctuation called quotation marks. They look like this "." Quotation marks are placed before and after the words being quoted.   Punctuation at the end of the quotation goes directly before the last quotation mark.

Look at this sentence:

1. Leslie cried, "I hope my Valentine's box wins!"
2. "I hope mine does," Marie exclaimed.

In sentence one, notice how there is a comma directly after the speaker at the beginning of this sentence. Also, notice how there is an exclamation point at the end of the quotation.   We always use punctuation at the end of the quotation and after the speaker has been identified.

Sometimes the speaker will come first, other times the quotation will come first. In sentence two the quotation comes first. A comma was placed after the quotation words, but before the last quotation mark.   A period was placed after the speaker was identified at the end of the sentence.

Only use quotation marks if the **exact** words of the speaker are being written. *Meg said she loves to spend time with friends.* This sentence summarizes what Meg said; however, her exact words are not given.

Tell if each sentence is a direct quotation or not a direct quotation.

1. Will you be at the Valentine's Dance? Asked Melody. _____
2. Janie answered, I have to ask my mom. _____
3. Melody said that her dress was pretty. _____
4. Janie questioned, What color is it? _____
5. Red! Melody exclaimed. _____
6. Janie explained that she wanted a purple dress. _____

Write a few sentences of dialogue in the box below. You must have at least two speakers.