Examples of How to Introduce a Quote from a Book

3 WAYS TO QUOTE SMOOTHLY IN A SENTENCE:

1. THE TAG OPENING uses a subject + a verb + a comma.
   Ex. Knowles reflects, “sometimes you are too ashamed to leave” (146).
   ~ OR ~
   When Mrs. Lepellier discovers her son laughing and crying on the floor with Gene sitting upright next to him, she responds, “What on earth happened?” (145).

2. THE SIGNAL SENTENCE is a sentence prepping the reader for the quotation + a colon. The colon means “as follows.”
   Ex. Knowles highlights how the looming devastation of WWII consumed the attention of adults of the time, but remained a distant reality for Gene and his fellow Summer Session students: “No one paid attention to us. One day I found myself describing to Mr. Prud’homme how Phineas and I had slept on the beach, and he seemed to be quite interested in it, […] so much so that he missed the point: that we had flatly broken a basic rule” (55).

3. INCORPORATION means melting the quotation into the structure of the sentence + using no punctuation before the quotation marks. You should be able to read your words and the author’s words aloud seamlessly as one sentence, as if the quotation marks are not there.
   Ex. Gene asserts that “anybody could see it was time to come in out of the rain” (14).

HOW TO USE BRACKETS [ ] to change a letter or word in the original quotation to match the structure of the sentence:
   Gene asserts that he... “didn’t like the glossy new surface” on his former school, that “it made it “seem like a museum,” and “that is exactly what it was to [him], and what [he] didn’t want it to be” (9).
   (To match “he,” the narrator’s “me” and “I” needed to be changed to “him” and “he.”)

HOW TO USE ELLIPSIS [...] so that quotations are not too long but the sense of the original is maintained:
   When Mrs. Lepellier discovers her son laughing and crying on the floor with Gene sitting upright next to him, she responds, “What on earth happened? [...] Did you come here to abuse him?” (145).
   (Note: ELLIPSIS= the three dots inside the brackets that indicate material has been removed).