EMBEDDING QUOTATIONS
Dropping quotes like bricks into the middle of a paragraph IS NOT OKAY. You MUST provide context for the reader to understand WHY you chose to use this quotation and WHAT your analysis means.

GOOD EMBEDDING helps the reader to understand:

1. Who said the quote?
2. Who was this person speaking to?
3. What was happening in the text when they said this?
4. What is the character’s emotional state when this was said?

Not embedded (F)
“It’s unlucky to step on lines and cracks in the sidewalk, but Mom didn’t seem to understand this” (Burch 2). This means that…

Some reasons why this is a poor choice:
1. Conventions error – this is called an “orphan quotation” (aka “dropped-in”) with no connection to either the sentence that precedes or follows it.
2. “This means that…” - the only thing you can do with an orphan quotation is to begin the next sentence with: This quote means that… (or some variation), and this is unsophisticated – DON’T DO IT!
3. This covers none of the four things embedding should help us understand.

Basic embedding (C)
Jennings thought “it’s unlucky to step on lines and cracks in the sidewalk, but Mom didn’t seem to understand this” (Burch 2).

By adding Jennings thought, the quotation is no longer orphaned, but it just isn’t very interesting. This covers only one (#1) of the four things embedding should help us understand.

Good embedding (B)
As Jennings walked with his mother along a New York City sidewalk, he thought to himself “it’s unlucky to step on lines and cracks in the sidewalk, but Mom didn’t seem to understand this” (Burch 2).

This version covers #s 1, 2 & 3.

Great embedding (A)
Walking along a city street with his mother, Jennings remembered an unwritten rule of childhood and avoided stepping on lines and cracks in the sidewalk, something his “Mom didn’t seem to understand,” but something he knew he must do to keep her safe (Burch 2).

This version covers all four.
1. “‘That’s not the way we do things around here!’” (Burch 7). When Sister Frances says this, she means that she expects Jennings to follow rules she hasn’t even taught him yet.

Embedded NOT embedded

2. Another quote would be, “the next series of clicks took us from the dining room, down a few more hallways to some sort of playroom with a green-and-white tiled floor” (Burch 9. This shows how the kids were conditioned to respond, like test animals, to the clicker.

Embedded NOT embedded

3. Mark tells Jennings that the number one rule of the orphanage is “‘don’t ever think about going home,’” a rule the kids follow to prevent homesickness and help them survive the day to day challenge of life on their own (Burch 13).

Embedded NOT embedded

4. “‘They cage the animals at night! It’s the rules’” (Burch 26). Mark says this to Jennings to explain why the stuffed animals are put into the cabinet each night.

Embedded NOT embedded

5. “‘You’ll break something, and then where will my profits go?’” (Burch 40). This means that Jennings only represents money to Mrs. Carpenter.

Embedded NOT embedded
PRACTICE Embed these quotes:

 “…the animals that are given to us we have to take care of. If we didn’t cage them up in one place. We might lose them, they might get hurt or damaged” (Burch 56). - Sister Clair

“Wait!” he cried out. “Don’t leave me! Please don’t leave me” (Burch 61). - Mark

He laughed. “It means more than just having the same last name, doesn’t it?” (Burch 105). - Jerome

“Son, isn’t it better to know I won’t lie to you? Isn’t it better to know that when I come for you, it’ll be for keeps?” (Burch 229). - Sal

“I love you,” I cried. “I love you. I love you. I love you” (Burch 291). - Jennings