

Name _____

Period _____

Paragraph Editing

Directions: Edit the following paragraph. Change punctuation marks and capitalization as necessary, add quotation marks, and put a (P) where new paragraphs should begin (HINT: Remember to start a new paragraph each time the speaker changes!).

It was a sultry, hot summer day in Dark Gulch when Jake Coleman pushed open the swinging doors to Sam's Saloon and strode in. Where's the sheriff demanded Jake in an arrogant tone. Over here came the sheriff's voice from a table near the back. I been waiting on ya, Jake. What took you so long? By now the tension was so thick you could cut it with a knife. People were quietly, but purposefully, scurrying out of the line of fire between the two enemies. You oughta know what took so long said Jake. You're the one who sent me away. And now you're back, huh, asked the sheriff. Tell me, Jake, just what you got on your mind. Only this, said Jake disdainfully as he threw down the words and music to a song called Big Pen Blues that he'd written while he was in jail. With that the sheriff pushed himself away from his table and walked over, picked up the paper, and brought it to where the barkeeper was sitting at the piano. Play it, Sam exclaimed the sheriff. Yeah, let's hear it, said Jake as he brought the sheriff a beer.