

**Geography & Social Studies**

- Using a map of the United States, ask students to locate five cities they would like to visit. Students should record their choices to practice the correct use of a comma between a city and a state. In order to further extend this activity, students can research the five cities and states they chose and then select three or more adjectives to describe each location. Ask students to use the adjectives they select to write a sentence that describes each location. This is a great way to practice the correct use of commas between words in a series.

**Mathematics**

- Ask each student to write clues to identify the day of the week, month, number day, and year of his or her birthday. Encourage students to use a variety of number oriented clues to describe their birthdays in order to reinforce and apply math skills. For example, clues for the birth date Thursday, April 5, 2001 might be: "I was born on the day of the week that is the second to last day of the school week. I was born in the month that has 'many showers to bring May flowers'. The number day of my birthday is worth a nickel. The year of my birthday is 2000+1." Pair students together and ask them to take turns sharing their clues with each other and guessing the correct birthday information. Students should record each birthday and carefully practice the correct use of a comma between the day and year and the day of the week and the month in a date.

**Language Arts**

- Apostrophes help make many useful combinations of words. Write the two lists provided below on your classroom whiteboard or blackboard and ask students to match one word from Column A with one word from Column B and then insert an apostrophe in the correct place to complete the contraction. Turn this lesson into a game by letting your students race against the clock to see who can make the most combinations in two minutes. After they've finished, students should switch papers with a partner to check for accuracy and see who wins!

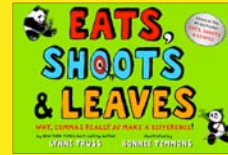
**COLUMN A**

I  
He  
She  
We  
They  
There  
It  
You

**COLUMN B**

Am  
Will  
Is  
Are  
Have  
Would  
Not  
Could

**You'd better believe commas really DO matter!**



**Eats, Shoots & Leaves:**  
**Why Commas Really Do Make a Difference!**  
Written by Lynne Truss  
Illustrated by Bonnie Timmons  
ISBN: 978-0-399-24491-9 (HC) • Ages 6-8 • \$15.99

**Praise for *Eats, Shoots & Leaves***

"While dissolving into giggles . . . children will find themselves gaining an instinctive understanding of the 'traffic signals of language.'"—*Booklist*

"Clever, creative."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"The point is to make children laugh while swallowing their grammatical medicine—and do they ever."—*The Wall Street Journal*

**You really CAN'T manage without apostrophes!**



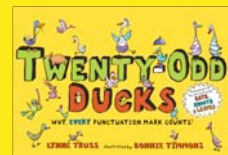
**The Girl's Like Spaghetti:**  
**Why, You Can't Manage Without Apotrophes!**  
Written by Lynne Truss  
Illustrated by Bonnie Timmons  
ISBN: 978-0-399-24706-4 (HC) • Ages 6-8 • \$16.99

**Praise for *The Girl's Like Spaghetti***

"Wordplay or 'grammerplay' at its finest."—*School Library Journal*

"Hide your red pens: If Truss and Timmons keep this up, the grammar police may have its youngest recruits yet."—*Booklist*

**You should know that EVERY punctuation mark counts!**



**Twenty-Odd Ducks:**  
**Why, Every Punctuation Mark Counts!**  
Written by Lynne Truss  
Illustrated by Bonnie Timmons  
ISBN: 978-0-399-25058-3 (HC) • Ages 6-8 • \$16.99



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Guide ISBN: 978-0-399-25129-0 (bundles of 10)

**A GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS**



**EATS,  
SHOOTS  
& LEAVES**

**WHY, COMMAS REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**THE  
GIRL'S  
LIKE  
SPAGHETTI**

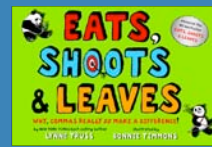
**WHY, YOU CAN'T MANAGE WITHOUT APOSTROPHES!**

**TWENTY-ODD  
DUCKS**

**WHY, EVERY PUNCTUATION MARK COUNTS!**

**LYNNE TRUSS** illustrated by **BONNIE TIMMONS**

### ABOUT *EATS, SHOOTS & LEAVES*: WHY, COMMAS REALLY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



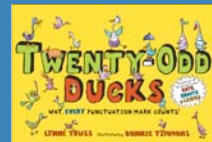
Adapted from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling adult book by Lynne Truss, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference!* illuminates the comical confusion the lowly comma can cause. You might want to eat a huge hot dog, but a huge, hot dog would run away pretty quickly if you tried to take a bite out of him! Using lively, subversive illustrations to show how misplacing or leaving out a comma can completely change the meaning of a sentence, this picture book is sure to elicit gales of laughter—and better punctuation—from all who read it. Students will cheer at the prospect of the fun punctuation lessons this book will inspire!

### ABOUT *THE GIRL'S LIKE SPAGHETTI*: WHY, YOU CAN'T MANAGE WITHOUT APOSTROPHES!



Just as the use of commas was hilariously demystified in *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, Lynne Truss and Bonnie Timmons put their talents together to do the same for apostrophes in *The Girl's Like Spaghetti: Why, You Can't Manage without Apostrophes!* Everyone needs to know where to put an apostrophe to make a word plural or possessive—Are those sticky things your brother's or your brothers?—and leaving one out of a contraction can give someone the completely wrong impression. If you forgot to put an apostrophe on a sign that should say WE'RE HERE TO HELP, you would seem rather thoughtless. And if you wrote LOOK, IT'S BEHIND! without the apostrophe, you'd have people thinking about a rear end rather than a race. *The Girl's Like Spaghetti* is guaranteed to help students laugh their way to understanding the apostrophe's job.

### ABOUT *TWENTY-ODD DUCKS*: WHY, EVERY PUNCTUATION MARK COUNTS!



Commas and apostrophes aren't the only punctuation marks that can cause big trouble if they're put in the wrong place. *Twenty-Odd Ducks: Why, Every Punctuation Mark Counts!* puts hyphens, parentheses, quotation marks, periods, and more in the spotlight, showing how which marks you choose and where you put them can cause hilarious mix-ups. Together with *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* and *The Girl's Like Spaghetti*, *Twenty-Odd Ducks* makes the perfect addition to any grammar lesson.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LYNNE TRUSS is the author of the worldwide bestselling book *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*. She is constantly tempted to correct punctuation on signs, advertisements, movie posters, and more. She lives in London, England. Visit her at [www.eatsshootsandleaves.com](http://www.eatsshootsandleaves.com)

### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

- Before you share *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, *The Girl's Like Spaghetti*, and *Twenty-Odd Ducks* with your students, ask them to each take out several pieces of paper, a pencil, and crayons or markers. Choose several sentences from any of the three books to read out loud to your class. Ask them to write down the sentences. Remind them to insert punctuation marks in the correct places within the sentences. Then ask students to draw pictures illustrating the meaning of each of the sentences they've written. Invite students to compare their drawings and sentence structures. Since project results will vary between students, this activity will help your class understand that there can be more than one way to punctuate one sentence. Students will quickly learn how easily their choice of punctuation marks and punctuation placement can change the meaning of an entire sentence!

### RESEARCH, WRITING, ARTISTIC & KINESTHETIC ACTIVITIES

*Encourage your students to learn about punctuation as they encounter it in their everyday learning!*

- Split your students into groups and direct each group to a different corner of the classroom. Provide each group with a different sentence with each word written on a separate sheet of paper. Also provide each group with tape and additional sheets of paper with various punctuation marks drawn one on each. Ask each member of the group to tape one of the sentence words to his or her shirt. Students should work together to place themselves in the correct order and then hold up the punctuation marks in the spaces where they belong. Students should see how many different meanings they can make of the same sentence by moving and changing the placement of the punctuation marks. Encourage students to share their different sentences and explain the various meanings they were able to achieve.

- Ask each student to write two sentences correctly using the word **its** and two sentences correctly using the word **it's**. Be sure to check their work for accuracy. Provide each student with four Post-it notes to cover the words **its** and **it's** in their sentences, and then ask your class to exchange their sentences with a partner. Each student should write the correct form of the missing word on the Post-it notes and then lift the note's to self-correct. This activity can be extended beyond punctuation lessons to teach homonym words such as **their**, **there** and **they're** or **to**, **too**, and **two**.
- Use sentence strips to write several sentences, leaving out the punctuation. Place the sentence strips in a pocket chart or lay them down on a table in a learning center. Provide index cards with all of the various punctuation marks that will be needed to complete the sentences. Students should work in groups to manipulate the cards and slide them into the correct positions. Once your class masters punctuation concepts, encourage them to move on from "recognizing" to "applying." Provide blank index cards and ask students to create cards for the correct punctuation marks and add them to the sentences on their own. Once they've mastered this activity, ask students to work in a learning center environment to take turns with a partner writing their own sentences using sentence strips and then adding punctuation marks. Scaffolding this activity in several levels will build your students' knowledge and their ability and confidence to apply their punctuation skills in their everyday learning!

### PUNCTUATION LESSONS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

#### Independent Reading

- Ask your students to scan picture books and/or their own independent reading books to locate sentences that contain a specific punctuation mark. Students should record several example sentences in their reading notebooks or journals. As an extension of this activity, students can write their own sentence or paragraph using the designated punctuation mark in as many ways as possible to mimic the author's style of writing.
- Ask your students to locate three different examples of sentences with a variety of punctuation marks in their independent reading books. Students should record these sentences, leaving out the punctuation marks, and exchange their sentences with a partner and ask them to add the missing punctuation marks. Encourage your students to further apply the skills they've learned from reading *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, *The Girl's Like Spaghetti*, and *Twenty-Odd Ducks*, by writing down five sentences of their own, leaving out the punctuation marks. Ask students to switch papers with a partner and add the necessary marks to each other's sentences to see how well they've mastered punctuation! Challenge them to create a silly story using all ten sentences.