Story Summary

A new family has moved to Alphabet City—the Punctuations! It’s the first day at a new school for Exclamation Point, Question Mark, Period, and Comma. As the letters in school begin forming words, the Punctuations join in the fun. Exclamation Point adds excitement to the words! Question Mark helps the words ask questions. Period brings a nice stop to things. But, Comma isn’t sure how he fits in. He can’t help but feel like he’s just getting in the way and slowing things down. Do the letters even need Comma? What would happen if he wasn’t around?

This wonderful introduction to punctuation is as heart-felt as it is educational. The Day Punctuation Came to Town makes language fun and cleverly teaches the important role punctuation plays. From family focused publisher Familius, this delightful story is written by Kimberlee Gard, with illustrations by Sandie Sonke.

Activity Ideas

**Punctuation Rules**—Create a poster with the rules for using each punctuation mark (!, ,, ., ?)

**Punctuation Cards**—Create cards for children with the punctuation marks on them. Read sentences and ask children to hold up the right punctuation mark when it should be inserted.

**Moving to the Marks**—show children how to make the marks with their bodies - as they hear the story, have them make the marks.

**Misplaced Punctuation**—Read sentences with misplaced punctuation marks and talk about the difference in meaning.
The Day Punctuation Came to Town

A new family has moved to Alphabet City—the Punctuations! It’s the first day at a new school for Exclamation Point, Question Mark, Period, and Comma. As the letters in school begin forming words, the Punctuations join in the fun. But, Comma isn’t sure how he fits in. What would happen if he wasn’t around?

What is The Day Punctuation Came to Town about?

The Punctuations move to a new school. Have you ever moved somewhere new—even to a new class? How did you feel?

The Punctuations knew they were different from letters. Have you ever felt different? Why?

The Punctuations all have jobs. What are some of the jobs you have at home? What are some jobs you have in the classroom? What happens if you don’t do your job?

How does comma feel at the end of the story? What changed?
### Vooks Pause & Ponder

**The Day Punctuation Came to Town**

Pause at the indicated time stamps and discuss the story

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0:08</td>
<td>Name all of the punctuation marks you see.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0:37</td>
<td>What clue is there for when to use an exclamation point as punctuation?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0:50</td>
<td>What words signal a question mark?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:07</td>
<td>What clues are there for what a comma does? What does a period do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:25</td>
<td>Who are the other students in the class?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:12</td>
<td>What does Exclamation Point do for words?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:10</td>
<td>Why does Comma sneak out of the room?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:11</td>
<td>Why do you think all of the letters got jumbled and spilled over into the hall?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### After viewing the Book:

1. The letters and punctuation all work together. What are ways you work together with someone else?
2. What would happen if there were no punctuation marks?
3. Can you think of any other members of the Punctuation family that were not in the story?
Punctuation Coloring Sheet

Color the **punctuation marks** and write the correct punctuation name on the lines provided.

1. ________  2. ________  3. ________  4. ________
Write the correct punctuation mark in the box provided and match the punctuation mark with its definition. Draw a line to connect the two.

- **Period** Helps the words as a question.
- **Comma** Brings a nice stop to the words.
- **Exclamation Point** Helps the words slow down and pause.
- **Question Mark** Adds excitement to the words.
Add The Correct Punctuation Mark

Read the sentences aloud three times using the three different punctuation marks. Then, write the correct punctuation in the box provided to finish the sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence</th>
<th>Question Mark</th>
<th>Exclamation Point</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is your favorite color</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>!</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wow, it’s really raining today</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>!</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How many letters do you have in your name</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>!</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The frog is green</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>!</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurry, you’re going to be late</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>!</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I like to play outside with my friends</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>!</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Fill in the Commas**

Commas help put a pause and slow words down in sentences. Without commas, some sentences can be very silly. Add commas to fix the silly sentences below.

_Hint: Some sentences need more than one comma._

**Your turn:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Let’s eat mom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I like baking my toys and recess.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sara kept walking her head a little higher than usual.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The teacher said the child is sad.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Commas are important students!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example without comma:  
_I need to study Grandpa._

Example with comma:  
_I need to study, Grandpa._

Without a comma, the sentence is pretty silly. It reads that you need to study Grandpa. With a comma, we understand that you are telling Grandpa that you need to study.