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Punctuation Mark – written and illustrated by Belinda Ellis

Publisher: Scholastic New Zealand

RRP \$19.50

Another “picture book” from Belinda Ellis, but once more she has not aimed this at the pre-schooler or early reader. While it has picture book format, it is aimed for the next age group. As in *Back to Front Bob* the author/illustrator treats a serious subject in a fun way. (Who else would name their teacher Miss Take?)

Mark loved punctuation. For starters it looked funky, and its symbols are understood in all languages. There's a sign for an ASTERISK, and AT, an AND, and an EXCLAMATION and a QUESTION.

Mark's friends consider him a DINGBAT but Mark thought of himself “*more of an ASTERISK-y sort of thing - like a star.*”

Mark's teacher showed that punctuation could even save lives (Let's eat Grandma!) and gave examples of how misplaced punctuation can change the meaning of a sentence. The illustration of a trussed and roasted Grandma is sure to create laughter.

Even the troublesome APOSTROPHE is clearly explained.

Belinda Ellis has included a Glossary: Punctuation Terms Explained. And instead of The End, this tale ends with FULL STOP. Delightful.

Reviewed by Chris Wright

