

**Punctuation Theory**

Directions: Answer all questions on regular notebook paper.

*It was all imaginary, anyway – not real. It was only in the fairy tales that people were called on to be so brave, to die for one another. Not in real-life Denmark. Oh, there were the soldiers, that was true. And the courageous Resistance leaders, who sometimes lost their lives, that was true, too.*

*Number the Stars*

*Lois Lowery*

1. Highlight all examples of internal (inside) punctuation in the excerpt above. List their names and symbols. (Ex - semi-colon ; )
2. Are there any other internal punctuation marks that are not in the excerpt above? If so, list their names and symbols.
3. Read the excerpt aloud several times. List the things each internal punctuation mark does to your voice.
4. Name some ways middle punctuation is different from ending punctuation?
5. Find at least two *interesting* examples of internal punctuation in a book, magazine, or news article. Read them aloud several times. Think about what that punctuation does to your voice and how it helps you understand the meaning of the sentence.
6. Carefully attach, copy, or type each example. (Be sure to give the source.) Highlight each punctuation mark.
7. Using the list of questions on the back of this sheet, analyze the details and patterns you notice. The more questions you consider and answer, the more you will be prepared to develop theories about each punctuation mark in our class Socratic Seminar.

This assignment will be your ticket to participate in the seminar.

**Questions to help guide your analysis:**

* How long do you pause at each punctuation mark?
* Are your pause times different from each other?
* Why do you think the author wanted you to pause for different lengths of

time?

* What are the different parts of the sentence about?
* Is one part more important than another?
* How does the punctuation divide them?
* How would the sentence sound with a different punctuation mark? How

would a change affect the meaning? (Ex – a dash were a comma, a colon

were a dash, a comma an elipse?) Try it.

* What are the different parts of the sentence about?
* Is one part more important than another?
* How does the punctuation divide them?
* Are there any punctuation marks used in more than one way? If so,

how are they different?