

Focus Lesson

Use punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody (end marks, commas, etc.)

Text: *Is Your Mama a Llama?* by: Deborah Guarino

CAFE Goal	Fluency
CAFE Strategy	Use punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody (end marks, commas, etc.)
Observe/Relate	<p>Do you like to listen to stories? I always loved listening to stories. When I was little, every night I asked my mom to read me a story because she read with so much feeling. In fact, she read stories like she was an actress on television or in the movies! When you listen to a story, is there anything the reader does to make the reading sound more interesting? The most skillful readers use their voices to help listeners understand the author's meaning. They put words together in meaningful phrases, and they use punctuation marks to guide them as they read. They do this to help readers understand the story better.</p>
Teach and Reinforce	<p>Establish purpose – Today we are going to learn about the fluency strategy Use punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody (end marks, commas, etc.).</p> <p>Create urgency – We are learning to use punctuation to make our reading sound better. When we use punctuation to enhance phrasing, we chunk words that go together. Certain punctuation marks tell us to stop, or pause, or make our voices go up or down. As we read out loud, we use punctuation marks to help our listeners to understand the story better.</p> <p>Explicit Teacher Modeling – This book is titled <i>Is Your Mama a Llama?</i> and it is written by Deborah Guarino. As I read this story, I am going to use punctuation to put the right words together in phrases. This will make the author's meaning clearer and help my reading to sound smooth. This is called using punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody (end marks, commas, etc.)</p> <p><i>Please note: the pages in the book Is Your Mama a Llama? are unnumbered. You might want to take a pencil and write the page numbers, marking the title page as page 1.</i></p> <p><i>Read pages 6 -7 at the beginning of the story where the speaker questions the little bat, Dave, and Dave responds.</i></p> <p>I am going to stop here and practice the fluency strategy Use punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody (end marks, commas, etc.).</p>

Listen as I read: "Is your mama a llama?" I asked my friend Dave."
Which words go together? (*"Is your mama a llama?" is one phrase and "I asked my friend Dave" is another.*)

Let's look at the sentence I just read. (*If possible, point out the punctuation marks in a Big Book version of the story, or show the page using an elmo or document camera. You can also write the sentences on strips and emphasize the punctuation marks by writing them in a different color.*)

There are a few punctuation marks in the sentence. Notice the talking marks around the speaker's words. Sometimes speakers use different voices for different characters.

Next, let's take a look at the other punctuation marks that will help us read the story to show the author's meaning.

- **Question Mark:** There is a question mark after the word *llama*. When I read the words "Is your mama a llama?" my voice goes up after the word *llama*. It goes up because the question mark signals that I am asking a question. *As an extra support, draw a line showing how your voice follows a straight line and goes up on the word llama.*
- **Period:** At the end of the sentence, there is a period ("I asked my friend Dave."). The period tells me that my voice should go down when I read the word at the end of the sentence. *As an extra support, draw a line showing how your voice follows a straight line and ends at a lower tone with the word Dave.*
- **Comma:** On the next page, I read, "No, she is not," is the answer Dave gave." Once again, there are talking marks around the speaker's words. There are also commas in the sentence. Whenever I see a comma, I pause a little. Listen as I read the sentence again and hear me pause after the commas. *Read the sentence again, being sure to pause after the commas.*
- **Ellipsis:** Continue reading pages 8-10. Let's look at the three dots known as an ellipsis at the end of page 9. Good readers pause after an ellipsis. Sometimes writers use an ellipsis to create suspense for readers. In this book, the author wants us to guess what type of animal each Mama is, so she uses an ellipsis to give us time to make a prediction.
- **Exclamation Point:** Look at the exclamation point after the word "Bat!" on page 10. Writers use exclamation points to show excitement. When readers see an exclamation point, they should use their voices to show excitement.

<p>Practice</p>	<p>I am going to continue reading and have you try the strategy Use punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody (end marks, commas, etc.).</p> <p><i>Continue reading pages 11-14 where the speaker asks the baby swan, Fred, about his mama. Point out the punctuation that tells you how to use your voice.</i></p> <p>Repeat after me as I read the sentences on each page. Remember how we talked about using punctuation marks (question marks, commas, periods, ellipses, and exclamation points) and reading the words in chunks that make sense to demonstrate the author’s meaning and make our reading sound smooth.</p> <p><i>Complete the story at a different time, when you do, ask students how they used punctuation to read words in phrases and to help readers to understand the story through their oral reading.</i></p>
<p>Encourage and Plan</p>	<p>We just practiced Use punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody (end marks, commas, etc.). You can see how using punctuation when we read out loud can help listeners to understand the story more fully. Today, you will take turns reading with a partner and practice using punctuation to help your partner comprehend the story better.</p>
<p>Common Core Alignment</p>	<p>Use punctuation to enhance phrasing and prosody meets the Common Core State Standard for many grade levels. This lesson could be revised to match your grade-level expectations. Find the standard that aligns with your grade-level on our CAFE Menu/ CCSS Grade Level Matrix.</p>