

The Punctuation Rap
by Jan Richardson

The Punctuation Rap is a game we play,
It's fun to do, and we can learn that way.

Take the period, the period, he's not hard to understand.
You'll find him at the end of a statement or command.
He marks abbreviations, shortens words that are long.
Don't forget the period; he's small but strong.

Question mark, question mark, what did you say?
He follows a question, that's the only way.

"Wow, Awesome, Rad, Hurray!"
The exclamation mark is next; he's excited to play.
Don't use him too much, he won't be special that way.

The comma is next; he is used a lot.
He can separate a list of some groceries you've bought.
You'll find him in the middle of the year and the date,
Between two adjectives, or a city and state.

You can join two sentences with a "but" or an "and,"
Just remember the comma, he will give you a hand.
There's one more place that a comma has been,
He's after a clause that tells you when.

The dash – the dash – he's here then he's gone.
If you need to make a pause, you can bring him along.

The colon likes to show a list that will come.
His brother the "semi" will not be out done.
The semi-colon joins two sentences with no "and."
If there are too many commas, he can lend a hand.

So remember this rap; it will make you smart.
Punctuation is easy; you can learn it by heart!