Eats, Shoots, and Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference!

Kate Reynolds

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Reviewer: Kate Reynolds  
Reading Level: Primary, Intermediate, Young Adult  
Rating: Excellent  
Genre: Informational Books;  
Subject: English language--Punctuation--Juvenile literature; Comma--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Truss has produced a children's book that is just as educational and humorous as her adult book of the same name. In this book, however, she narrows her focus to, as she says, "the most used and misused" of punctuation marks--the comma. She chooses thirteen sentences that change drastically in meaning depending on where commas are, or are not, placed. Timmons' hilarious illustrations of what each sentence is saying add to the fun. At the end of the book, Truss has a more technical explanation of what each comma is doing in its sentence and how the meaning is changed.

Younger children will enjoy the amusing pictures and can begin to understand the use of the comma, while older children will be able to grasp various rules governing comma usage. This book is a must-have for elementary school classrooms--not to mention, many adults could do with the reminders presented as well.