

Examples of Interesting Punctuation with some questions

Whose?

Beautiful land the patriot said
and rinsed it with his blood. And the sun rose.
And the river burned. The earth leaned
towards him. Shadows grew long. Ran red.

Beautiful land I whispered. But the roads
stayed put. Stars froze over the suburb.
Shadows iced up. Nothing moved.
Except my hand across the page. And these words.

from Eavan Boland. *New and Collected Poems*. New York: Norton, 2008.

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Beautiful land the patriot said
and rinsed it with his blood and the sun rose
And the river burned the earth leaned
towards him shadows grew long ran red

Beautiful land I whispered but the roads
stayed put stars froze over the suburb
shadows iced up nothing moved
except my hand across the page and these words

1) The first reproduction of Eavan Boland's poem "Whose?" is punctuated as printed. I have removed punctuation, italics, and capitalization from the second reproduction. Please punctuate in a way that differs from Boland's usage. Draw one line under italicized words (if any); draw three lines under a letter to show that it should be capitalized. Add appropriate and distinctive punctuation.

Discuss how Boland's punctuation directs your reading of the poem.

Discuss how your punctuation shifts the reading of the poem.

Burns first came upon the world as a prodigy; and was, in that character, entertained by it, in the usual fashion, with loud, vague, tumultuous wonder, speedily subsiding into censure and neglect; till his early and most mournful death again awakened an enthusiasm for him, which, especially as there was now nothing to be done, and much to be spoken, has prolonged itself even to our own time.

From Thomas Carlyle. *Carlyle's Essay on Burns*.
New York: Macmillan, 1925. (first published 1828)

2) Discuss the use and effect of both semicolons in this sentence.

Burns first came upon the world as a prodigy and was in that character entertained by it in the usual fashion with loud vague tumultuous wonder speedily subsiding into censure and neglect till his early and most mournful death again awakened an enthusiasm for him which especially as there was now nothing to be done and much to be spoken has prolonged itself even to our own time.

3) Punctuate the passage above as lightly as possible, yet correctly.

Discuss how your punctuation, compared against Carlyle's, shifts the reading of the passage.
