

EXERCISE 39-4 Other punctuation marks: Guided review

Edit the following paragraphs for most effective use of the dash, parentheses, brackets, ellipsis mark, and slash. Refer to “The New Colossus” (p. 143) as necessary. The numbers in the margin refer to appropriate rules in section 39 of *Rules for Writers*, Fifth Edition. The first revision has been done for you.

fourteen-line
 The sonnet is a poem ~~of fourteen lines~~ with a particular pattern to its rhymes; it is 39a

often used to compare or contrast two items. Emma Lazarus’s poem “The New Colossus” is a sonnet. Lazarus uses its fourteen lines to contrast two statues. The ancient Colossus of Rhodes (which was male) represented the sun god; the new Colossus was female and represented Liberty. The Rhodes Colossus symbolized what Lazarus calls “storied pomp.” The French-made American one stood for freedom and opportunity. 39b

In her first line, “Not like the brazen (bronze) giant of Greek fame,” Lazarus refers to the material of which the old Colossus was made. Bronze, a valuable metal when the Colossus of Rhodes was erected in 280 B.C., was available only to the wealthy. Miss Liberty was made of copper, a material available to all classes of people. When Miss Liberty was erected in 1898, America’s least valuable coin—the one-cent piece, was made from copper. 39c
 Miss Liberty was for everyone, not just the wealthy. 39a

The major contrast Lazarus sets up is in the attitudes of the two statues. The old Colossus is powerful, not caring about the “. . . wretched refuse” of its “teeming shore.” The 39d

new one welcomes all: “Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” 39e