

Ella Minnow Pea

A Progressively Lipogrammatic Epistolary Fable



Author

- Mark Dunn
- Born 1956
- Studied Film at University of Memphis and Screenwriting at University of Texas-Austin
- Worked as a playwright for over a decade before publishing his first novel *Ella Minnow Pea*, in 2001
 - This professional history explains the style of his books

Genre and Style

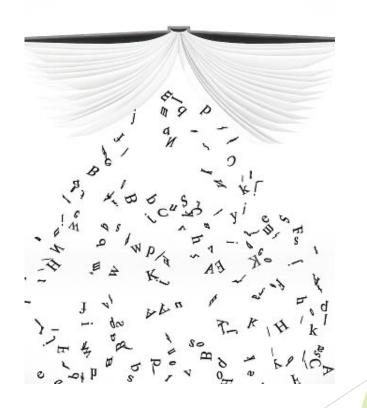
- Ella Minnow Pea is an experiment in style
- A Progressively Lipogrammatic Epistolary Fable
 - Progressive
 - steadily or in stages
 - Lipogram
 - a written work composed of words selected to avoid the use of one or more letters of the alphabet
 - Epistolary
 - in the form of written letters
 - **Fable**
 - a short story that teaches a moral or lesson, often through symbolism

Genre and Style

- Famous Fables
 - "The Tortoise and the Hare"
 - "The Ant and the Grasshopper"
 - Animal Farm
- Famous Epistolary Novels
 - Frankenstein
 - Dracula
 - The Color Purple
 - Bridget Jones's Diary
- Famous Lipogrammatic Novels
 - Good luck finding one!

Plot

The story is set on the fictional island of Nollop, situated off the coast of South Carolina and home to the inventor of the pangram The Quick Brown Fox Jumps Over The Lazy Dog. The citizens of Nollop pride themselves on their extensive vocabulary and their creative use of language. They've even erected a monument to honor their late hero. But one day a tile with the letter "Z" falls from the statue. The island leaders interpret the fallen tile as a message from beyond the grave and the letter is banned from use. Citizens are still reeling from the shock, when another tile falls... and then another...



Genre and Style

- Pangram: a phrase, sentence, or verse composed of all the letters of the alphabet
 - A quirky novel with pages of zany, jumbled lexicon
- Portmanteau: a word combining the sounds and the meanings of two other words
 - Brunch, Smog, Spork, Dramedy
- Neologism: a newly coined word or expression
 - Leapdash, Learny-house, Intoxi-tipsy

Characters

- Ella Minnow Pea: An 18-year-old launderess who lives in the busy city of Nollopton with her mother, Gwennette, and her father, Amos
- Tassie Purcy: Ella's cousin who lives in the rural village of Nollopville with her mother Mittie, a second-grade math teacher
- Nate Warren: A young American scholar at the University of Georgia who publishes Nollopiana, an academic journal about the island of Nollop, and therefore very interested in the island's recent crackdown on freedom of speech
- High Island Council: Governing body of Nollop



TOTALITARIANISM, COMPLACENCY, AND RESISTANCE

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

BETRAYAL AND SOLIDARITY

BLIND FAITH, REASON, AND LOGIC

Themes





The Ripple Effect -just one letter...

- Communication
- Education
- Press
- Music
- Time
- Privacy
- Trade and Commerce
- History
- Reality