

## The Amazing Comma!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Place commas where needed in the following paragraph.

The twentieth century has produced many fine composers of serious music but perhaps the most distinguished of modern American composers is Aaron Copland. Copland who was born on November 14 1900 in Brooklyn New York has written music which uses American traditions landscapes and folk material for its basis. Copland's ballets for example draw upon traditional American hymns and folk songs. *Appalachian Spring* which is one of Copland's best-known works is a ballet set in the Pennsylvania frontier of the nineteenth century. The music of *Appalachian Spring* as well as that of the ballets *Rodeo* and *Billy the Kid* evokes the wide-open unspoiled land of an earlier America. Copland drew upon other American materials for his *Lincoln Portrait* a composition for narrator and orchestra and his 1942 composition *Fanfare for the Common Man* can be viewed as a symbol of his belief in the democratic principles of America. Although he is best known for his compositions drawn from distinctly American sources Copland who studied music in both New York and Paris also composed more abstract music for piano and orchestra. Throughout his long productive life Aaron Copland has composed a great deal of music written several books about music and has influenced and encouraged a generation of younger American composers.