



LESSON 4 | Literacy, Empathy, and Humor

Harness the power of humor to build students' literacy skills while exploring how comedy and creativity can make a difference.

Objective

Students will use multiple-meaning words and figurative language to write and deliver jokes for a cause. They will also read and speak expressively.

Time

40 minutes

Materials

- Make a Difference With Comedy activity sheet
- Joke list or joke books (see step 2)
- Optional: Videos and reading passages about children impacted by poverty at RedNoseDayinSchool.org

1 Invite students to share what makes them laugh. Explain that many jokes contain:

- **puns** jokes based on multiple-meaning words (like *run*) or words that sound the same (like *I* and *eye*)
- **hyperbole** an exaggeration

2 Direct students to search for puns and hyperbole in kids' jokes.

Use the joke list, books from your library, or choose from the following:

- *101 Math Jokes* by Erin O'Connor
- *101 School Jokes* by Katy Hall
- *United Jokes of America* by Alan Katz and Caissie St. Onge

3 Show that every joke has a setup and a punch line.

- Setup: Why was six afraid of seven?
- Punch line: Because seven eight nine!

Ask students where the pun is. (Answer: The number *eight* and the word *ate* sound the same.)

4 Have students identify the setup and the punch line in their favorite jokes from step 2. Do their jokes contain any puns or hyperbole? (For advanced kids, ask: If not, what other aspects of humor can they identify?)

5 Model telling a joke without expression, then with expression. Have students practice delivering their favorite joke aloud to a partner.

6 Hand out the activity sheet. Have students write their own jokes.

Applying Writing and Speaking Skills

Humor is lots of fun, but it is also a tool that people can use to help others. Tell students they can use the power of their own voices—the writing and speaking skills they work hard to develop in school—to help children in need by sharing their jokes when they fundraise for Red Nose Day. **Share the videos and reading passages about children impacted by poverty** and learn how organizations funded by Red Nose Day are helping, to inspire them to get involved. Discuss the end of the activity sheet.

Kids Helping Kids: Fundraising for Red Nose Day!

Your students can turn learning into action and show off their comedic skills by sharing their jokes when they fundraise for Red Nose Day!

Each spring, students across the country join together in their classrooms, schools and communities to spread some much-needed joy and raise some life-changing cash to support children living in poverty.

Every penny counts, and even a small amount can make a big difference for children in need of support. To get started, visit RedNoseDayinSchool.org



Name _____

Make a Difference With Comedy

Plan out your own jokes, then answer the question about why you want to use jokes and comedy to help others.

1. Jot Down Ideas

Types of Jokes

- Puns
- Hyperbole
- Silly situations
- Knock-knock
- (Add any others you can think of!)

2. Write Your Own Joke(s)

Joke Tip

- Try “backwards planning”: Identify your pun or punch line—then think of a situation that could end that way.

Make a Difference!

When you tell your jokes, you have people’s attention. You can use that time to talk about other issues that are important to you, like helping other kids just like you.

What facts about child poverty do you want your audience to know?

JOKE LIST

Borrow One of These or Write Your Own!

How many tickles does it take to make a squid laugh?

Ten-tickles!

What do you call a nosy pepper?

Jalapeño Business.

Why did the carpenter go to the beauty salon?

He needed his nails done!

Where do roses sleep at night?

In their flowerbed!

Why are eyeshadow, lipstick and mascara never mad at each other?

Because they always make-up!

Why was the shoe bad at gymnastics?

She was a flip-flop!

Which band never turns left or right?

One Direction!

What do ponies do when they fall in love?

They get mare-eed!

What should you do if you bite off more than you can chew?

Spit it out!

Why wouldn't the hermit crab give the mollusk a ride in his shell?

Because he didn't want to pull a mussel!

How do you cut a wave in half?

Use a sea saw.

Why did the genie get mad?

Because he was rubbed the wrong way!

What flower is the best kisser?

Tulips!

What is a good time to go to the dentist?

Tooth-Hurty

What did the balloon say to the pin?

Hi, Buster!

What do aliens like in their hot chocolate?

Martian-mallows.

What did one volcano say to the other volcano?

I lava you.

Where do horses live?

In neigh-borhoods



Why did the lawyer show up in his underwear?

He forgot his lawsuit!

How do trees get onto the Internet?

They log on!

How does the ocean say hello?

It waves.

What do ghosts use to wash their hair?

Sham-BOO!

Why can't your nose be 12 inches long?

Then it would be a foot.

What did the left eye say to the right eye?

Between you and me, something smells!

Why can't you tell a joke standing on ice?

Because it might crack up!

If seagulls fly over the sea, what flies over the bay?

Bagels.

What day do chickens hate most?

Fry-days!

What do you call a bear with no teeth?

A gummy bear.





What do you give a lemon in distress?

Lemonade!

What does a weiner dog say when he crosses the finish line?

I'm a weiner!

What do you call a bee that's having a bad hair day?

A Frisbee.

What's a ballerina's favorite type of bread?

A bun!

What is the corn's favorite music?

Pop!

What time of year do people get injured the most?

In the Fall!

Why was the politician out of breath?

He was running for office!

What is rain's favorite accessory?

A rainbow!

Why can't Monday lift Saturday?

It's a weak day!

Why did the quarterback take the hardest classes?

Because he knew he would pass!

