

**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
- Age-appropriate joke books (see step 2)
- Videos about child poverty at rednoseday.org/videos
- Stories of children helped at rednoseday.org/stories
- Tell a Joke, Make a Difference family sheet

SHARE the family resource sheet with your students' parents. Fill in the details about your class fundraiser, so families can join in on the joke-telling fun!

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 joke 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. Red Nose Day uses the power of entertainment to raise money and awareness to help children in poverty. Tell students you will host a joke-telling fundraiser. Students will use the power of their own voices—the writing and speaking skills they work hard to develop in school—to help children in need. **Share** the videos and stories about child poverty. Discuss the end of the activity sheet.

Kids Helping Kids: The Red Nose Day Joke-Ha-Thon

Join the **Red Nose Day Joke-Ha-Thon** for free start-to-finish resources to help you put together a meaningful, easy fundraiser that your students will never forget!

Students will tell and sell their best jokes within their classrooms, schools, and communities to spread some much-needed joy and raise some life-changing cash. First, register at RedNoseDay.org/JokeHaThon to access all the tools you'll need to fundraise. Then (time for a math connection!), fundraise to help children living in poverty in the US and around the world. Every penny counts!

Name _____

Make a Difference With Comedy

Plan out your own jokes to perform, 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?

Tell a Joke, Make a Difference

Dear Parents,

Does your family like to joke around? Jokes are a fun way to build reading, writing, and speaking skills. Your child has also been exploring how humor and creativity can help make a difference for people in need. Now we are turning our learning into action by taking part in the Red Nose Day Joke-Ha-Thon, where we will tell and sell jokes to help children living in poverty.

HA HA!



Planning a fundraising event is a great way for students to practice goal-setting, build organizational skills, and practice empathy for others. Use this guide to start a conversation about child poverty and support your child's efforts to help end it.

DID YOU KNOW?



Nearly one in five children in the U.S. lives in poverty.



One dollar can provide nutritious food for a child after school.



Globally, 264 million children and adolescents do not have the opportunity to enter or complete school.



\$5 can vaccinate a child in the poorest countries against five deadly childhood diseases.

MAKE YOUR LAUGHS MATTER: JOIN THE RED NOSE DAY JOKE-HA-THON

Ways you can support your child's fundraiser:

- Encourage your child to practice their jokes—everyone needs an audience!
- Ask your friends and family to donate to hear a joke or two.
- Help your child set up a joke stand (like a lemonade stand, but funnier!)
- Feeling ambitious? Organize a neighborhood comedy show.
- Set up a fundraising page and spread the word! It takes only a minute to register at [RedNoseDay.org/JokeHaThon](https://www.RedNoseDay.org/JokeHaThon).

[More information about our class Joke-Ha-Thon fundraiser:](#)



NOSES ON!

The Red Nose Day Everyday Heroes noses will be available for purchase in bulk on [walgreens.com](https://www.walgreens.com) in March, and at Walgreens stores nationwide on April 22.



THURSDAY MAY 23