



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](https://www.rednoseday.org/videos)
- Stories of children helped at [rednoseday.org/stories](https://www.rednoseday.org/stories)
- Tell a Joke, Make a Difference family sheet

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. Tell students they 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 by participating in the Red Nose Day Joke-Ha-Thon. **Share** the videos and stories about child poverty to start the conversation and inspire them to get involved. Discuss the end of the activity 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!

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



Join the **Red Nose Day Joke-Ha-Thon** for a fun, easy, and meaningful classroom experience that your students will never forget!

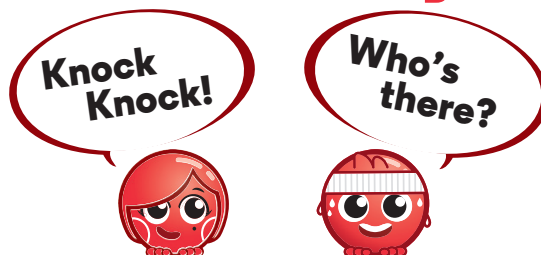
From April Fool's Day through Red Nose Day on May 21, students across the country will tell and sell their best jokes within their classrooms, schools, and communities to spread some much-needed joy and raise some life-changing cash. To get started visit [RedNoseDay.org/JokeHaThon](https://www.RedNoseDay.org/JokeHaThon) for free start-to-finish resources to create your fundraiser. 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, 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-eeed!



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!

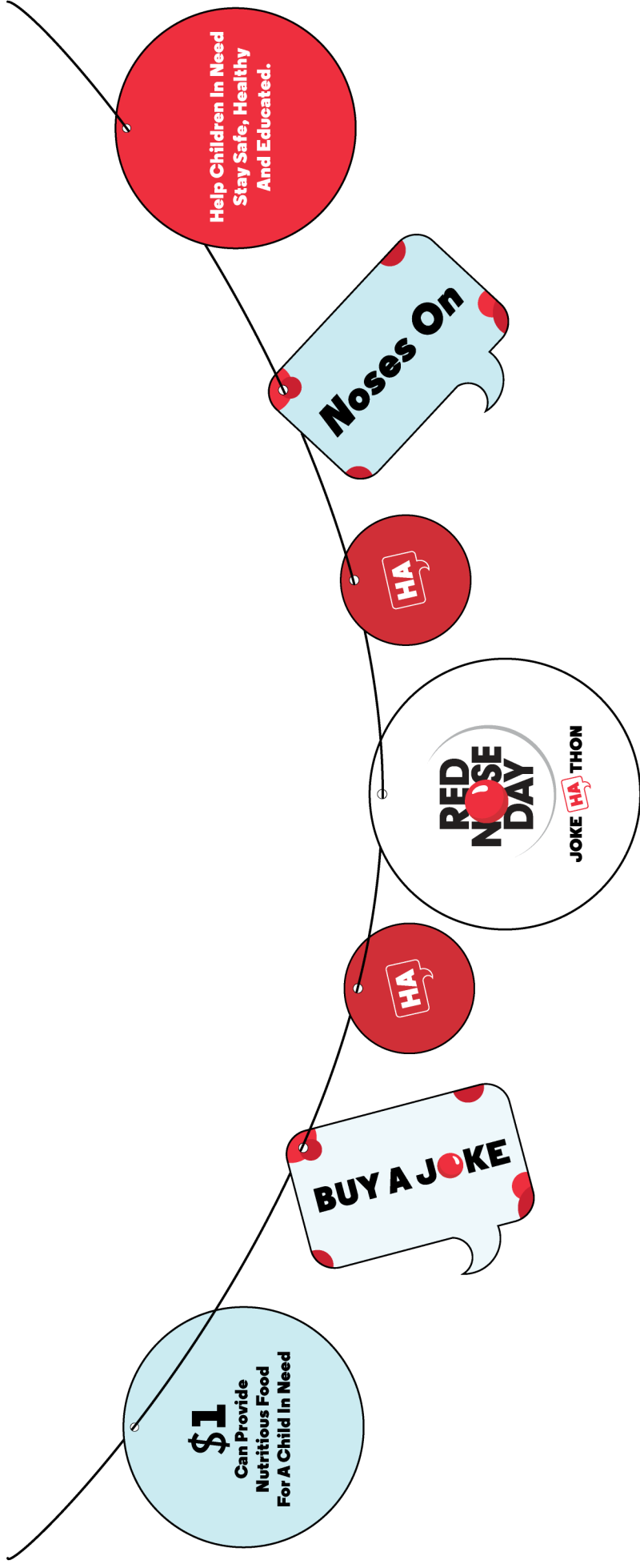
Jokes courtesy of our friends at...

 **SCHOLASTIC**

**TRY
NOT
TO
LAUGH
CHALLENGE**

Decorations

The following elements can be cut out and strung together to decorate the classroom for your Joke-Ha-Thon.





**RED
NOSE
DAY**

JOKE  **THON**



**Let's come together
to end child poverty,
one nose at a time.**

The logo is a circular emblem. It features a light blue outer ring with a black border. At the top of this ring is a small white circle with a black outline, representing a punch hole. In the center of the emblem is a white circle containing the text "RED NOSE DAY" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The word "NOSE" is partially obscured by a large, 3D red nose. The nose is a sphere with a white highlight on its right side, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

**RED
NOSE
DAY**

returns
Thursday, May 21



**Help children in need
stay safe, healthy
and educated.**



Tag us!

@RedNoseDayUSA

#RedNoseDay





Noses On

A light blue speech bubble with a black outline and a tail pointing down and to the right. It features several red nose graphics: a large one with a white dot in the top-left corner, a smaller one in the top-right corner, a small solid red dot in the middle-left area, and a large one in the bottom-right corner. A small circular logo is also in the bottom-right corner.

RED
NOSE
DAY



Noses On

A white speech bubble with a black outline and a tail pointing down and to the right. It features several red nose graphics: a large one with a white dot in the top-left corner, a smaller one in the top-right corner, a small solid red dot in the middle-left area, and a large one in the bottom-right corner. A small circular logo is also in the bottom-right corner.

RED
NOSE
DAY





\$1

**Can Provide
Nutritious Food
For A Child In Need**

Joke Cards

Encourage students to write their jokes on these joke cards. You can then snap a photo of them holding up their joke and post it on social media. They can also be used as decorations.

