

GOOD YEAR BOOKS

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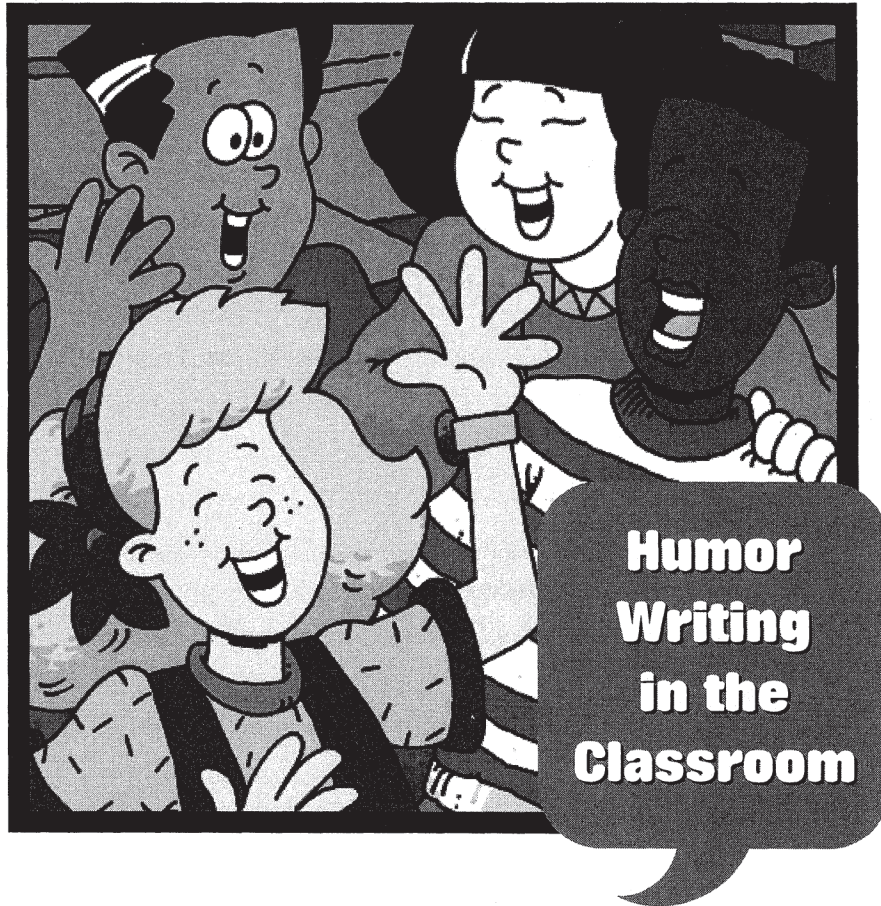
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Let the
Laughs
Begin!



Karen Jennings & Mark Pierce

Illustrated by Dave Garbot

 GOOD YEAR BOOKS

Dedication

To Ben and Charlotte, two great educators

GOOD YEAR BOOKS

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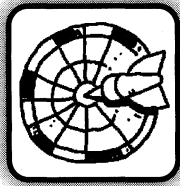
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Chapter 1

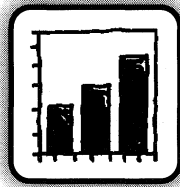
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Hello, Humor: Writing to Entertain



OBJECTIVES

- *To introduce students to humor and humor writing as creative expression.*
- *To assist students in collecting, examining, and classifying jokes and joke forms.*
- *To direct students in exploring what they find humorous.*
- *To increase verbal skills by having students share humorous material with each other.*
- *To help students examine the purposes and benefits of laughter.*
- *To assist students in classifying different types of humor and the appeal of each.*
- *To encourage students to begin a comedy journal in which they can explore humorous ideas.*
- *To examine the humor writer's purpose and how he or she writes to entertain readers.*
- *To encourage students to research humor as a topic of study.*



STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

- *Discuss what types of humor your students enjoy, leading them to analyze elements of this humor as an introductory lesson to further writing assignments.*
- *Discuss how children of different ages laugh at different things. What did you think was funny at age three? What was funny at age eight? Have students conduct a "Comedy Survey" to find out what makes students in all the grades in their school laugh.*
- *Discuss why writers choose to write jokes and other humorous material to entertain their readers.*
- *Have students create comedy journals in which they can write down any funny thoughts, ideas, observations, and favorite jokes. Encourage daily writing sessions.*



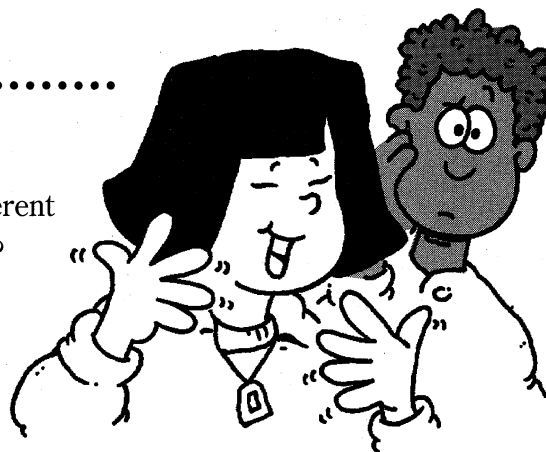
IDEAS FOR FURTHER ENHANCEMENT

- *Have students memorize their favorite jokes and perform them for each other and then for other classrooms. Students typically will feel more comfortable performing jokes at first as a group in a choral reading fashion. Discuss the jokes and how they work. Look at how the jokes are different and how they are alike.*
- *Have students perform a comedy show for each other using their favorite jokes. More advanced students may want to memorize a favorite part of a routine of a famous comedian such as Bill Cosby or Jerry Seinfeld.*

What Makes Me Laugh?

.....

● Everybody has a unique sense of humor. Different things make us laugh. What makes you laugh? To begin writing humor, it is important for you to discover the things you personally find funny, and why. Answer the questions below to examine your unique sense of humor.



1. Who is your favorite comedian? _____

What do you find funny about him or her? _____

2. Who is your favorite funny friend? _____

What does he or she do that makes you laugh? _____

3. What is your favorite funny movie? _____

Describe what you like about it. _____

4. What is your favorite funny TV show? _____

Why? _____

5. What is your favorite funny commercial? _____

Why? _____

6. What is your favorite funny cartoon? _____

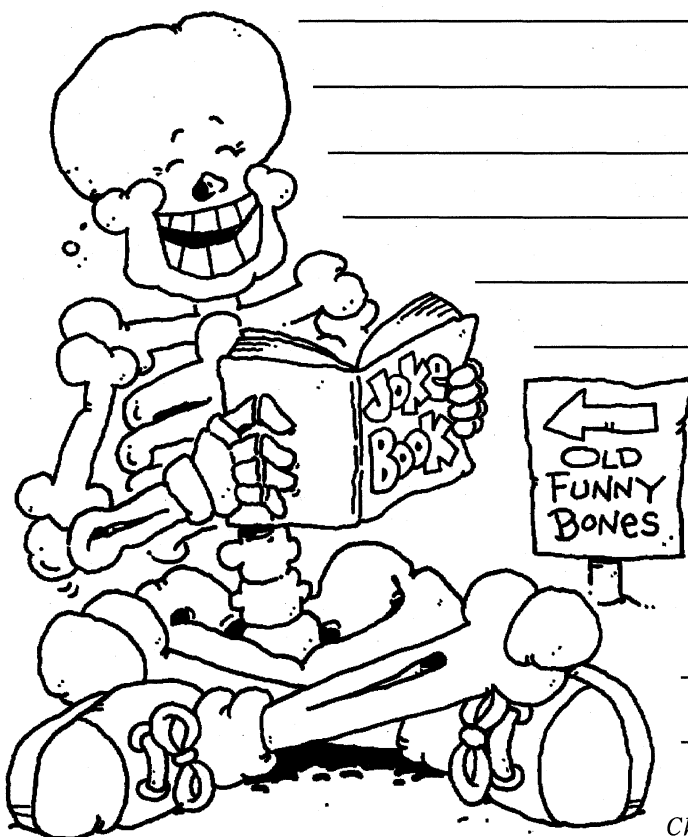
Why? _____

Let's Look at Laughter



● Laughing is enjoyable. Observe someone laughing. What does it look like? What parts of the body move? Write a descriptive paragraph about someone laughing and what it looks like.

Describe what it feels like for you to laugh. _____



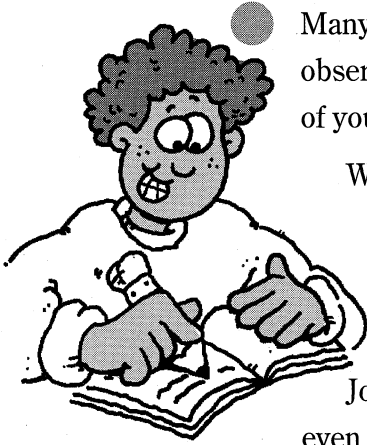
Let's Look at Laughter



- Here are two pictures you can cut out. Glue them back to back on an index card and then tape a pencil to the other end. Now flip the card back and forth and the pictures will look like a person laughing.



My Favorite Jokes



Many comedy writers keep a comedy journal where they write funny thoughts, observations, and jokes. You can keep a comedy journal too! Start by collecting all of your favorite jokes.

What exactly is a joke? Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines a joke as:

Something said or done to provoke laughter, especially a brief narrative with a humorous climax.

Jokes are fun to tell and collect. Some are strange, some are goofy, some are even corny, but all are meant to make you laugh. Collect your four favorite jokes and write them in the spaces below. They can be knock-knock jokes, riddle jokes, jokes you've heard on TV—any kind of jokes you like! You can also do some research and find your jokes in joke books or by asking relatives and friends.

Joke 1

Joke 2

Joke 3

Joke 4

Laughter: The Genuine Article



● What makes people laugh? Why don't you find out? Write an article about humor by interviewing people. Everyone likes to laugh, even the principal. Here are some sample interview questions:

- What do you find funny?
- What is your favorite joke?
- Who is your favorite funny performer?
- What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you?
- What do you think is a funny word?



Now think of five more questions that you can ask. You should have at least ten questions to ask people. Interview as many people as you can. Once you have finished all of your interviews, look at them and draw some conclusions. Do the same things make everyone laugh? You can use the space below to write your article, but bring a notebook for your interviews in case someone has a lot to say.

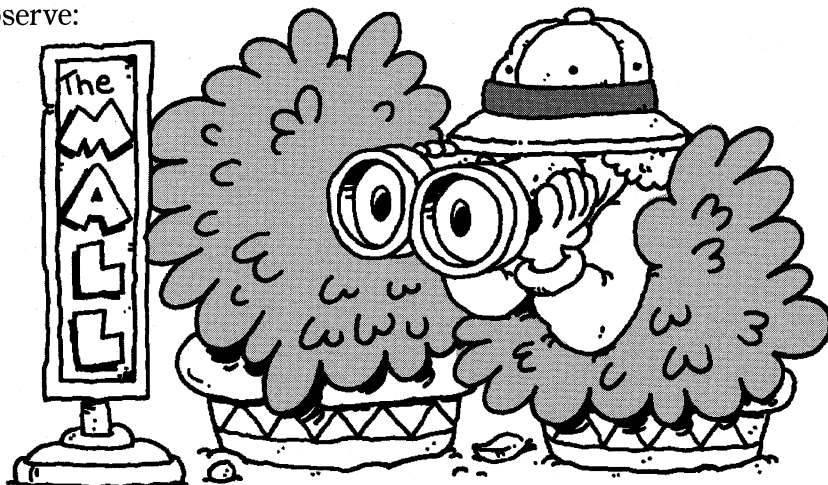
All About Laughter written by _____

Funny, I Never Noticed That!



● Observation is an important exercise for comedy writers. By carefully observing the world around you, you can find humor in the everyday details that people often overlook. That is why it is important to take notes. Pick a location from the following list to visit and observe:

- The library
- A fast-food restaurant
- The supermarket
- The school lunchroom
- The gym
- The mall
- A video store
- A museum
- The park



Bring this worksheet and a notebook with you. Sit and observe as much as you can for at least ten minutes. In the notebook, write down everything that you observe. Then write a first-person narrative describing what you saw. Include as many details as you can. If you do this often enough, you will begin to find humor everywhere.

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