

Books can tickle your funny bone!

Goal: To show students that books are wonderful entertainment. They can be even better than T.V. Lots of books are written for the express purpose of making us laugh and giggle!

BookSpring will provide:

Selection of books featuring jokes, riddles, and funny stories
Feather boas (2); large/small feathers for tickling bones!
Hamburger hats
Groucho Marx glasses (3/4)
Extra large sunglasses; slinky eye glasses
Clown tie
Colorful clown wig
Bags of jokes (2-primary/intermediate)



Description of Activity:

1. Dress up as a “comedian.” Welcome the children to the library with a joke or riddle, “What is the tallest building in the world?” – “The Library – it has the most STORIES!!!!”

What is funny? And why is it important? Humor is something you can enjoy together, but it's more than just fun. The benefits of a good sense of humor are well documented and include better health, increased optimism, higher self-esteem, and greater emotional intelligence. More information can be found in the Supplemental material sheet...

2. Talk with children about what makes a book fun. Is it a character, a plot, the complications? Ask them what books they read just for fun?
3. Let pairs of children pick a joke or riddle out of the bag and rehearse it for 3 minutes. Invite pairs to come up and use the microphone to share their joke or riddle with the rest of the class. You may also share the remaining jokes with the children. If time permits and they are willing, students may share jokes they know!
4. Read-alouds suggestions on the next page.

Community Connection: Encourage your students with star potential to check out local classes. Hideout Theater Kids Improv Classes: <http://www.hideouttheatre.com/improv-for-kids/classes>
The Coldtowne Theater <http://www.coldtownetheater.com/youth-program/youth-classes>

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills: K(21 A&B); 1st (27A&B); 2nd (28A&B); 3rd (110.14 29A); 4th (110.6 b1A,C &b3A); 5th (110.7 b1A &b3A &b8A,B,C)

Common Core: ELA-Literacy. RL.K.10, SI.K.1a-K.2, 1.1a-c, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1a-c, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1a-d, 4.3, 4.4, 4.1d, 4.6, RF 4.4a-cSI 4.2, SI 5.3, 5.6, RI5.2, 5.8, 5.10

Suggested Read-Aloud Books

Grade Level: Pre-Kinder through Second Grade **might be suitable for all levels	Suggested Read-Aloud(s): Book with no Pictures by BJ Novak** Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!, Mo Willems (not included)
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Discussion Points:

1. Before you read "Book with no Pictures": Ask if all books should have pictures? What is nice about illustrations? Why do some books not have pictures? How can they be funny? The author, BJ Novak is a writer & comedian. He gets to be funny for a living!

2. After you read: What makes "Book with no Pictures" funny? Does it depend on the reader? Read it mono-tone and then with enthusiasm to show the differences.

3. What was your favorite part? The song? The Robot Monkey? What words made you laugh? (Boo Boo Butt maybe?) Discuss non-sense words/noises: Blorf/Blurk, etc. New words? Preposterous and Ridiculous

Another option: What's funny about "Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!"? Why do you think the Pigeon really, REALLY wants to drive the bus? If you could do one thing you really, REALLY wanted like driving a bus, what would it be? If a parent of grown-up tells you that you can't do something, what's the best way to respond? Is the pigeon funny? Why?
<http://pigeonpresents.com> is a great resource with lots of activities!

Grade Level: Second through Fifth Grade	Suggested Read-Aloud(s): A Chocolate Moose for Dinner by Fred Gwynne Amelia Bedelia books by Peggy Parish &/or Herman Parish (not included)
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Discussion Points:

Fred Gwynne wrote & illustrated his books-you might notice the Dad looks a lot like him!? He was an actor in a show called The Munsters back in the 1960's!

1. Before you read: Ask if the students know what an idiom is- the usual meaning of the words does not predict the meaning of the entire phrase, such as "raining cats and dogs" or "put on your thinking cap." (Beginning readers and students learning English as a foreign language often share a common struggle with American idioms, as they try to assign meaning word by word, which is definitely ineffective with these odd phrases.)

2. While you read: Ask the different meanings of the words and why the little girl might be confused?

3. After you read: What did you find funny? Why?

Another read aloud option:

Amelia Bedelia books are humorous because of misunderstood word meanings. The Amelia Bedelia series of books are favorites because the main character has such silly responses to rational requests (when asked to "draw the drapes," she draws a picture of curtains, for example).