



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 books (see step 2)
- Videos (optional) and reading passages about child poverty at [rednoseday.org/videos](https://www.rednoseday.org/videos)

REMOTE VERSION

Get a step-by-step student version in Google Doc form at [RedNoseDayinSchool.org](https://www.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 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.

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 or virtual experience that your students will never forget!

From April Fool's Day through Red Nose Day on May 27, 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

2. Write Your Own Joke(s)

Types of Jokes

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

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?