

Suggested Books

The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog/
Beware! Killer Tomatoes - Jeremy Strong
Krindlekrax/ Scribbleboy - Philip Ridley
Pop! - Mitch Johnson
Worst. Holiday. Ever. - Charlie Higson
The Day the Screens went Blank - Danny Wallace
Clarice Bean series - Lauren Child
The life of Riley: Beginner's Luck - Simon James Green
The Diary of a Wimpy Kid series - Jeff Kinney
The 13 Storey Treehouse series - Andy Griffiths
The Astounding Broccoli Boy - Frank Cottrell Boyce
Tom Gates series - Liz Pichon
Judy Moody series - Megan McDonald
The Gizmo/ Funniest Stories - Paul Jennings
Roald Dahl books
The Danger Gang - Tom Fletcher
The Smartest Kid in the Universe - Chris Grabenstein

Genre Features

The main features of humorous writing are:

- It must be funny
- Use of exaggeration for comic effect
- Make comparisons using similes and metaphors
- Self deprecation by the main character
- Use unexpected events/ absurd situations
- Use comedic devices Eg puns; overstatement; understatement; repetition
- May include mistaken identity
- Use alliteration

GIGGLEBOX!

Useful Resources

<https://www.wickeduncle.co.uk/jokes/>

<https://theconversation.com/how-children-develop-a-sense-of-humour-77028>

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/mental-health/laughter-is-the-best-medicine.htm>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/genres/childrens/entertainmentandcomedy/all>

YouTube has many film clips that may be appropriate

Topic Hooks

Story box- To introduce you chosen book to your class, select an appropriate box/ bag/ chest/ container into which you have placed some objects that link to the text [or pictures of objects]. Remove the objects to determine the genre, theme and other aspects of the book.

Comedy store - hold a joke/anecdote telling competition

Watch a humorous film/ TV programme

Visit a pantomime [if appropriate time of year]

Clown Workshop

Non Fiction

Would You Rather? - Megapode Game Books

The Little Book of Jokes for Funny Kids - Matthew Kalp

Prank Lopedia - Julie Winterbottom

Beanopedia - Beano Studios

Beano: How to make a Comic - Nigel Parkinson & Emily McGorman

Who was Charlie Chaplin? - Patricia Brennan Demuth

How to be a Clown - Catherine Perkins

ENGLISH

Writing opportunities

Write a funny short story

Write a play script for a humorous story/ pantomime

Write poetry Eg Limericks; riddles; nonsense poems and publish as a class anthology

Write a comic strip story - take inspiration from comics Eg Beano; Dandy

Create a comedy character

Write a joke book

Instructions: How to be a clown/ comedian

Explanation - what happens to your body when you laugh

Persuasion: letter to persuade your teacher to hold a comedy talent show

Newspaper review of a comedy event/ comic

Discussion: Should laughter be part of well being initiatives? Should humour be kind?

NCR: History of Slapstick; Famous comedians EG Charlie Chaplin; Laurel and Hardy

Biography: famous comedians EG Charlie Chaplin; Laurel and Hardy

ENGLISH

Speaking and Listening opportunities

Perform in a comedy talent show

Write and perform a pantomime

Debate: Should laughter be part of well being initiatives? Should humour be kind?

ENGLISH

Poetry

A Book of Nonsense and other Favourites - Edward Lear

Nonsense Verse of Lewis Carroll

Silly Verse for Kids - Spike Milligan

Funky Chickens - Benjamin Zephaniah

School report - Brain Moses

Welcome to my Crazy Life/ I bet I can make you Laugh - Jeremy Seigal

SCIENCE

Animals, including humans - healthy lifestyle [Y6]

MATHS

Reasoning and Problem-solving

Shape

Position and direction

Critical thinking

GEOGRAPHY

Use limericks or nonsense verse to write a poem about:

- Countries of the world
- Counties and cities of the UK
- Biomes and vegetation belts

HISTORY

History of comedy in film - silent movies; talkies

History of clowns in the circus

COMPUTING

Create an EBook of jokes/ poetry

Film a silent movie inspired by Charlie Chaplin/ Laurel and Hardy

Use music software to compose music to accompany a silent movie

Use publishing software to produce an anthology of limericks/ nonsense rhymes

MUSIC

Compose music to accompany a silent movie using a range of instruments

I love to Laugh - Mary Poppins

Sonsense Nongs - Michael Rosen

ART

Design and apply face paint for a clown

Make clown puppets for a puppet show

Produce collages of clowns using a range of media

DT

Make joke pop-up books

Make a Jack-in -the box

Design and make a car for clowns; use pneumatics or cams and wheels

PE

Dance/ Gymnastics - learn skills to use in slapstick elements of a silent movie

PSHE—Character strengths

Resilience

Self-esteem

Communicating

Humour

Confidence

PSHE—Curriculum

That mental health is part of daily life and the importance of taking care of mental health

To recognise individuality and personal qualities

That personal behaviour can affect other people

To recognise the importance of self-respect and respect for others

RE

How do religions use music, poetry or dance to explore religion and convey religious beliefs?