

Jigsaw jokes - Humour

EXPLANATION:

Developing a sense of humour in younger years improves students' interactions with others, perspective taking and capacity to deal with challenges. In this activity students choose a funny joke and share it with their friends, But the challenge is that the joke and the punch line are jigsaw pieces — who will find the answer?

YEAR LEVELS: Years 1–3

STUDENT GROUPING: Whole group discussion and individual joke finding

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 50–60 mins

LINK TO CURRICULUM:

English: Sequence of content F–6

Language

- Language variation and change — How English varies according to context and purpose, including cultural and historical context.

Literature

- Responding to literature expressing preferences and evaluating texts — Expressing personal preference for different texts and types of texts, and identifying the features of texts that influence personal preference.

See also Personal and Social Capability learning continuum sub elements:

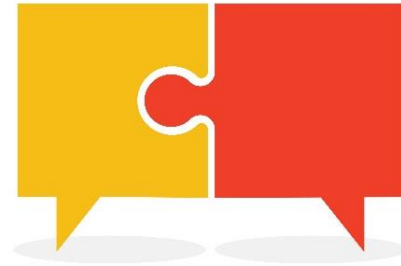
- Appreciate diverse perspectives
- Communicate effectively
- Recognise emotions.

SCOPE OF TASK:

A joke is a display of humour in which words are used within a specific and well-defined narrative structure to make people laugh and is not meant to be taken seriously.

1. Activate students' prior knowledge by asking them what is a joke? Remind them you are not asking them to tell you a joke but to explain what a joke is? Questions you could pose include:

- What is a joke?
- Why do you tell jokes?
- Is there a purpose for jokes?
- What does a joke have to be?
- What is funny?
- What isn't funny?
- Does everyone find the same things funny?



Highlight that jokes are not laughing at someone but laughing at the words and how the words are funny.

2. Discuss the features of a joke and provide examples — the joke and the punchline — ensuring the students know the different parts and structure of jokes. Depending on student's prior experience and knowledge you may choose just one joke form to discuss.
3. Ask students if they know any jokes? Get children to share jokes that they know — monitor what students are saying and respond or correct understanding as needed.
4. Share some joke books from the library with the students and read some of the jokes. Gauge what students are finding funny and ask them why? Ask about the structure of the joke.
5. Share the task with the students: Every student gets to choose a joke — either one they know or one they find in a joke book. They have to tell the teacher why they find it funny.
6. Once they have chosen a joke, they write the joke question on one piece of paper and the punch line on the other piece of a paper.
7. When the jokes have been written both parts are placed in a box and mixed up.
8. Each child gets to randomly pick one piece of paper. They read the part of the joke and find the other half of the joke. Instruct them to read their part to another student to see if their part form the joke. This will be very funny as students mix up punchlines and create more funny jokes.
9. Once everyone finds their match assemble the whole group. Each pair reads out the joke they have. The class can then discuss and share opinions:
 - Which is the funniest?
 - Do any not make sense?
10. Finally ask students why it is important to laugh?

RESOURCES:

- Joke books
- Paper and pens
- Box.