

Tongue twisters - Humour

EXPLANATION:

A tongue twister is a sequence of words or sounds that are typically difficult to pronounce quickly and correctly. Attempts people make to say tongue twisters can be very humorous and make everyone laugh. In this activity students recite tongue twisters and make their own funny tongue twisters to share with the class.

YEAR LEVELS: Years 4–6

STUDENT GROUPING: Whole group and individual or group creations

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 30-40mins

LINK TO CURRICULUM:

English: Sequence of content F–6

Strand Language:

- Purpose audience and structures of different types of texts - How texts serve different purposes and how the structures of types of texts vary according to the text purpose.

Strand Literature:

- How texts reflect the context of culture and situation in which they are created.

See also Personal and social capability learning continuum sub elements

- Recognise emotions
- Communicate effectively
- Express emotions appropriately
- Become confident, resilient and adaptable

SCOPE OF TASK:

Humour develops in stages just as other aspects of child development. It parallels and enhances physical, cognitive, language, and psychosocial skills – it is an important part of "feeding" brain development. When students laugh, the flow of blood increases to the brain making one feel energised and alert.

What is a tongue twister?

- A sequence of words or sounds, often of an alliterative kind, that are hard to pronounce correctly and quickly

- Tongue twisters are phrases which have similar sounding words in a repetitive sequence
- The aim is to say a tongue twister as fast as you can, but also as clearly as you can
- A great tool to practise and improve pronunciation, language development, build vocabulary and fluency
- Tongue twisters have been around for generations and make people laugh!

1. Ask students if they know any tongue twisters and why they make people laugh. Some questions to begin the conversation include:

- What is a tongue twister?
- Can you share a tongue twister that you know?
- Why do tongue twisters make people laugh?

Remind students that laughter and humour is important:

- Laughing and smiling shows connections with others
- Laughing is healthy
- Laughing relaxes people
- Laughing is fun
- Laughing energises you!



2. Write some tongue twisters on the board or pieces of paper and ask the students to choose a tongue twister. Choose some simpler tongue twisters to begin with. For example:

- If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?
- Thin sticks, thick bricks (x3)
- She sells seashells by the seashore
- Around the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran
- Four furious friends fought for the phone
- Six sleek swans swam swiftly southwards
- Five frantic frogs fled from fifty fierce fishes

More tongue twisters can be found on the internet and students might want to search for others.

3. Ask students to read the tongue twister aloud – then faster and then twice, really fast. Allow students time to take turns at reading a range of tongue twisters and have a laugh at the different pronunciations.

4. Provide time for students to make their own funny tongue twisters (or these can be created in small groups). Write the following prompts on the board to assist students to make their own tongue twister:

- Write your first name
- What did you do?
- Where did you do it?
- When?
- Why? Because ...

You can create an example with the students before they begin their own e.g. Susan sang a song at the seaside on the 6th of September because she saw some swimming salmon.

5. Once tongue twisters have been created bring the class together for sharing time. Ask individuals or groups to share their tongue twisters and provide time for everyone to have a laugh and giggle at the different attempts of pronunciations.
6. In conclusion ask students what was the funniest part of the activity - what did they get the best giggle out of?

Remind the students about the importance of humour and the range of benefits!

RESOURCES:

- Computer and internet to search for tongue twisters
- Whiteboard, paper and pens

