

Riddles - Humour

EXPLANATION:

Challenging, hilarious and often ridiculous, riddles can make people laugh but also confuse and be difficult to solve! This activity invites students to investigate different riddles and find the most testing and humourist to share with their classmates.

YEAR LEVELS: Years 11–12

STUDENT GROUPING: Group discussion and work in pairs

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 60 mins approx.

LINK TO CURRICULUM:

Representation of General capabilities in Senior English can be linked to this activity

Personal and social capability

Students develop personal and social capability in English by enhancing their communication skills, teamwork and capacity to empathise with and appreciate the perspectives of others. Close study of texts assists students to understand different personal and social experiences, perspectives and challenges. Students identify and express their own opinions, beliefs and responses by interacting with a range of texts. English actively assists students in the development of communication skills needed for analysis, research and the expression of viewpoints and arguments. Students work collaboratively in teams and also independently as part of their learning and research endeavours.

SCOPE OF TASK:

It is reported that laughter strengthens the immune system, boosts mood, diminishes pain, and protects an individual from the effects of stress. Laughter is essential for emotional and physical health. This aim of this activity is for students to laugh together and have some fun!

1. Share with the students some details about riddles. Some information could include:
 - A riddle is a fun type of brain teaser that is presented as a question, puzzle, phrase, or a statement
 - A riddle exists as a question or statement worded in a puzzling or misleading way
 - Many riddles have a double or hidden meaning that requires creative thinking
 - The key to solving the riddle is to realise that some of the words maybe being used in a surprising or unexpected way
 - Riddles could be used as a thought-provoking challenge for people to solve, or it could be a funny comment intended to make people laugh

2. Ask students to consider what humour and laughter mean to them and why it is important. Write their ideas and comments on a whiteboard. Inform the students that the aim of this activity is to use the riddles to challenge their classmates to think creatively and have a good laugh.
3. Pose some riddles to the whole class as examples to get students talking and thinking. Some examples might include:

Riddle	Answer
David's father has three sons: Snap, Crackle, and _____?	David
Jack and Jill are lying on the floor inside the house, dead. They died from lack of water. There is shattered glass all around them. How did they die?	Jack and Jill are goldfish
A boy was at a carnival and went to a booth where a man said to the boy, "If I write your exact weight on this piece of paper then you have to give me \$50, but if I cannot, I will pay you \$50." The boy looked around and saw no scales, so he agrees, thinking no matter what the man writes he'll just say he weighs more or less. In the end the boy ended up paying the man \$50. How did the man win the bet?	The man did exactly as he said he would and wrote "your exact weight" on the paper.
Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?	Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow
A cowboy rides into town on Friday. He stays two days, then leaves on Saturday. How can this be?	His horse's name was Friday
If a rooster laid a brown egg and a white egg, what kind of chicks would hatch?	None. Roosters don't lay eggs
Remove the outside, cook the inside, eat the outside, throw away the inside. What am I?	Corn
Take one out and scratch my head, I am now black but once was red.	A match
You answer me, although I never ask you questions. What am I?	A phone
How many months of the year have 28 days?	All of them! Every month has at least 28 days
You're running a race and at the very end, you pass the person in 2nd place. What place did you finish the race in?	You finished in 2nd place

4. After the students have had some time to play with a few riddles set them a task: Students are to work in pairs and search the internet to find a riddle that they think will make the class laugh. Give students 10mins to find a riddle they find funny. Remind students of safe internet practices.

5. Bring students back together and ask each pair to share their riddle. The rest of the group is to try to solve the riddle. If the group can't identify the correct answer the pair will need to share the answer. Provide time for discussion, debate about the answer and for laughter.
6. In conclusion ask the students what was fun and enjoyable about the riddle activity. What types of riddles did they find the funniest?

Riddles



RESOURCES:

- Whiteboard
- Computers, iPads and internet.