

STUDENT ACTIVITY GUIDE



JOKE BOOK READING ADVENTURE

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*A Detective's Guide to
Reading Between the Laughs*

**Student Activity Guide -
Volume 1**

FOR GRADES 3 THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

Observe clues • Think carefully • Solve the joke

JOKE BOOK READING ADVENTURE

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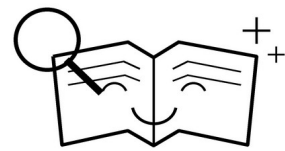
A Detective's Guide to Reading Between the Laughs

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YOUR READING ADVENTURE Check off each activity as you complete it.

☐ JBRA-S01 Welcome to Your Joke Book Adventure	☐ JBRA-S06 Visual Clues
☐ JBRA-S02 Predict the Punchline	☐ JBRA-S07 Match the Joke to the Book
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Every activity makes you a stronger Joke Detective—and an even better reader!



Why Read Joke Books?

Student Introduction
ACTIVITY CODE

Some people say that **a joke is the ultimate short story**. Think about it. Every joke has a beginning, a middle, and an ending. It introduces characters or situations, builds your curiosity, and finishes with a surprise. That’s one reason joke books are so much fun to read—and why they’re a great way to become a stronger reader.



Become a Joke Detective

Every joke is like a tiny puzzle waiting to be solved.

The setup gives you clues. The punchline reveals the surprise. Sometimes you’ll figure it out before you get there. Other times the joke will catch you completely off guard!

Great joke readers do more than simply read the words. They notice funny details, notice the illustrations, think about words with more than one meaning, and use what they already know about the world to understand why a joke is funny. The more jokes you read, the easier it becomes to spot these clues—and the more fun you’ll have discovering them!

That’s what this **Joke Book Adventure Guide** is all about!

As you work through these activities, you’ll become a **Joke Detective**, searching for hidden clues, making predictions, spotting clever wordplay, drawing cartoons, creating your own jokes, and sharing laughs with friends and family.

Before You Begin

As you read your favorite joke book—or one your teacher recommends—remember these four tips:

1 Have fun!

Great joke readers know that laughter is the best part of every joke book.

2 Look for clues.

Every setup gives hints about the punchline.

3 Think before you peek.

Can you guess the ending before you read it?

4 Share the laughs.

Jokes are even more fun when you tell them to someone else.

Ready? Let’s begin your Joke Book Adventure!

Joke Detective Activity Sheet JBRA-S02

Predict the Punchline

READING SKILL
PREDICTION

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

WARM-UP

Good readers don't just read - they **predict**! When you read a story, you try to guess what will happen next. When you read a joke, you try to guess the **punchline** before you peek! Let's see how good a Joke Detective you are.

JOKE DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

Read each joke setup. **Don't look at the punchline yet!** Write your own funny ending first. Then uncover the real punchline and compare it with yours.

JOKE 1

Setup: Why did the coffee taste like mud?

My Punchline:

JOKE 2

Setup: What do scientists put up in their living rooms at Christmas?

My Punchline:

JOKE 3

Setup: Where do pirates go for spring break?

My Punchline:

BONUS CHALLENGE

Choose one of the jokes above. Can you invent **another** punchline that still makes sense? Write it below.

SHARE THE LAUGH

Tell one of today's jokes to a friend or family member. Before you reveal the punchline, ask them to predict it.

Did they come up with a funny answer?

☐ Yes! ☐ Sort of. ☐ Not even close!

COVER THIS BOX BEFORE YOU BEGIN. • ACTUAL PUNCHLINES

JOKE 1

It was just **ground** this morning.

☐ Close ☐ Different ☐ Funnier

JOKE 2

A **chemis-tree**.

☐ Close ☐ Different ☐ Funnier

JOKE 3

Arrr-gentina!

☐ Close ☐ Different ☐ Funnier

RALPH'S READING TIP: Great readers make predictions all the time. The more clues you notice, the better your predictions become – even when you're reading joke books!

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

WARM-UP

Good readers are always looking for clues. Authors hide clues in stories, and joke writers hide clues in jokes. Sometimes one little word – or even a picture – helps you understand what comes next. Today you'll become a **Clue Detective!**

JOKE DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

Read each joke. Circle the word or words that give you the biggest clue to the punchline. *Hint: Sometimes the illustration gives you a clue, too!*

Joke 1 What do you call a number that can't stay in one place?

A roamin' numeral.



What clue helped you?

Joke 2 Where do ghosts like to travel?

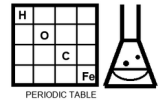
Boo-dapest.



What clue helped you?

Joke 3 How often do scientists look at the table of elements?

Periodically.



What clue helped you?

Joke 4 Why do witches stay at hotels on vacation?

So they can order broom service.



What clue helped you?

CONNECTING TO OTHER READING

Good readers look for clues everywhere, not just in joke books. The next time you read a story, chapter book, or magazine, spot a clue that helps you predict what might happen next. What is an example of a clue you could find in comic books, textbooks, or graphic novels?

BONUS CHALLENGE

Remember a joke you've heard, find one in a joke book, or ask someone to tell you one. Write it below, then circle or underline the clue (or clues) that help make it funny. If there is no obvious clue, draw a small illustration that gives readers a hint.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

WARM-UP

Joke writers love to play with words! Sometimes they use a word with more than one meaning. Other times they change a spelling or phrase to create a funny new meaning. This is called **wordplay**. A usual **choo-choo train** becomes a **chew-chew train** when it likes to eat!

JOKE DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

Read each joke. Circle the word or words with a different spelling or meaning than you expect. Then explain the two meanings or how the joke writer changed the words.

Joke 1 What do you call a train that eats too much?

A chew-chew train.



How did the joke writer change the words?

Joke 2 What do you call a crazy train?

A loco motive.



How is this different from the word locomotive?

Joke 3 What type of luggage do monsters take on vacation?

Scarey-on.



How did the joke writer change the word?

Joke 4 What do you call a biologist's self-portrait?

A cell-fie.



How is this different from the word selfie?

CONNECTING TO OTHER READING

Joke writers aren't the only authors who enjoy wordplay. The *Amelia Bedelia* books use funny misunderstandings, and poems by **Shel Silverstein** and **Jack Prelutsky** surprise readers with playful sounds and unexpected meanings. Watch for wordplay as you read!

BONUS CHALLENGE

Think of a joke, find one in a joke book, or ask someone to tell you one. Write it below. Circle the words that create the wordplay. If it does not use wordplay, add a small illustration that helps tell the joke.

RALPH'S READING TIP: Great readers notice when authors play with words. The more wordplay you discover, the more jokes - and books - you'll understand and enjoy!

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

WARM-UP

Have you heard a joke that someone else understood, but you didn't? **Good readers use background knowledge** - facts and experiences you already have - to understand reading and jokes. The more you learn, the more jokes you'll understand!

JOKE DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

Read each joke. Then explain: **What did you need to know before the joke made sense?**

Joke 1 How can you tell the difference between an alligator and a crocodile?

It all depends on whether you'll see it later or in a while.



Background knowledge clue:

Joke 2 What does an Easter Bunny get for making a basket?

Two points, just like everyone else.



Background knowledge clue:

Joke 3 How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing. It was on the house!



Background knowledge clue:

Joke 4 What would you get if you crossed Quasimodo with an Irish football player?

The Halfback of Notre Dame!



Background knowledge clue:

CONNECTING TO OTHER READING

Background knowledge helps with all kinds of books. Stories such as *Charlotte's Web*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and *Harry Potter* are easier when you know about farms, myths, animals, friendship, or magic. Every book builds knowledge for the next one!

BONUS CHALLENGE

Find, remember, or ask someone for a joke. Write it below. Then add one thing a reader needs to know to understand why it is funny.

RALPH'S READING TIP Every new book, experience, and fact builds your background knowledge. Great readers understand more jokes - and great joke readers become even better readers!

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

WARM-UP

Pictures do more than make books look nice. Illustrations can reveal **characters, setting, vocabulary, actions, mood**, and even a joke's hidden clue. Today, become a **Visual Clue Detective!**

JOKE DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

Look at each picture **before** reading the punchline. Then answer the question below.

Joke 1 What kind of plants do ghosts like to grow?

Bam-BOO!



How did the illustration help you understand the joke?

Joke 2 How did the soggy Easter Bunny dry himself?

With a hare dryer.



What clue did the illustration give you?

Joke 3 Why did the ghost mother always know when her children were fibbing?

She could see right through them.



Which part of the illustration helped you understand the joke best?

Joke 4 What do you call a jack-o'-lantern after it eats too much Halloween candy?

A plumpkin.



Would the joke still make sense without the illustration? Why or why not?

CONNECTING TO OTHER READING

Illustrations support many kinds of reading - picture books, graphic novels, comics, and textbooks. They often give clues about **characters, setting, vocabulary, mood**, and important events. Ask: ***What clues is the illustrator giving me?***

BONUS CHALLENGE

Think of a favorite joke. Draw a picture that helps a reader understand it - but don't give away the punchline completely!

RALPH'S READING TIP Pictures are part of the story. Great readers use both words and illustrations to discover clues and understand what they read.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

WARM-UP

Most joke books have a **theme**. Good readers notice what a book is mostly about because it helps them know what to expect. Today, become a **Theme Detective**!

JOKE DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

Read each joke. Write the letter of the Ralph Lane joke book it most likely came from.

A Birthday B Christmas C Valentine's Day D Sports E Travel

_____ **Where do cows go on vacation?**

Moo York.



_____ **What do you call two birds in love?**

Tweethearts.



_____ **What do you learn at Santa's Helpers School?**

The elf-a-bet.



_____ **Why isn't Cinderella good at soccer?**

Because her coach is a pumpkin and she keeps running away from the ball.



_____ **What do you say to a kangaroo on its birthday?**

Hoppy Birthday!

**CONNECTING TO OTHER READING**

Many books and other texts focus on one main topic or idea. Recognizing the theme gives you clues about what you may read, learn, or discover next. Ask: ***What is this mostly about?***

BONUS CHALLENGE

If you could create your own themed joke book, what would it be about? Write your theme and one joke that belongs in it.

My joke book theme:

My joke:

RALPH'S READING TIP: Great readers notice themes. Knowing what a book is mostly about helps you understand new words, make predictions, and enjoy reading even more!

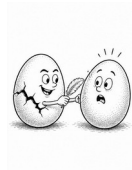
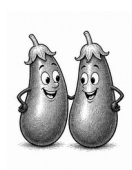
Name: _____ Date: _____ Class or Period: _____

WARM-UP

Good readers compare ideas and sort them into categories. In each group, three jokes belong together and one is different. Circle the joke that does not belong, then explain your thinking. More than one answer may work if you support it!

JOKE DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

Read each group. Circle one letter in each group and explain why it does not belong. Be prepared to explain your answer.

GROUP 1	GROUP 2
A. Where do pirates go on vacation? <i>Arrrr-gentina.</i> 	B. Why do chickens stay in shape? <i>Eggercise.</i> 
B. What washes up on very small beaches? <i>Microwaves.</i> 	B. What do you call a mischievous egg? <i>A practical yolker.</i> 
C. What is the worst vegetable to bring on a boat? <i>A leek.</i> 	C. Where do chickens work? <i>At eggplants.</i> 
D. Why do skunks celebrate Valentine's Day? <i>Because they're very scent-imental.</i> 	D. What do witches ask for at a hotel? <i>Broom service.</i> 
Which joke doesn't belong? Why?	Which joke doesn't belong? Why?

BONUS CHALLENGE

Choose one theme for a joke book. Circle it. Then list people, places, objects, or ideas that belong in that book.

☐ HALLOWEEN☐ SPORTS☐ SCIENCE

Details that belong in my themed joke book:

RALPH'S READING TIP: Strong readers compare details, notice patterns, and explain how their evidence supports a category.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

WARM-UP

Great readers make pictures—or even movies—in their minds. Read each joke, pause to picture the funniest scene, and then draw what you imagined. Your mental pictures can help you understand and remember what you read.

JOKE DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

Read each joke carefully. Picture the scene in your mind before you draw it. This time, you are the illustrator!

1. Why did the librarian get kicked off the plane?

Because it was overbooked.

 Draw what you pictured in your mind.

2. How do you make a ship feel better?

Give it some vitamin sea.

 Draw what you pictured in your mind.

3. What do you call a train that goes deaf?

It had an engine-ear infection.

 Draw what you pictured in your mind.

4. What do you call a female snowman?

A snow-ma'am.

 Draw what you pictured in your mind.

BONUS CHALLENGE

Good readers use visualization with many kinds of books—not just joke books. How could making pictures in your mind while reading science, social studies, math, short stories, chapter books, or other books help you understand and remember what you read?

RALPH'S READING TIP: When you create a clear picture in your mind, new ideas are easier to understand, connect, and remember.

JOKE DETECTIVE ACTIVITY SHEET JBRA-S10

Solve the Joke!

READING SKILL

Using Everything You've Learned

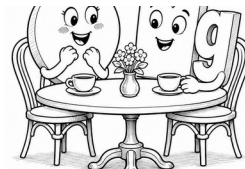
Name: _____ Date: _____ Class/Period: _____

WARM-UP

Congratulations! You've practiced many skills good readers use every day. As you solve each joke, think about background knowledge, wordplay, visualization, theme, predicting, and clues. Decide which strategy helped you most.

MASTER JOKE DETECTIVE CHALLENGE

Read each joke. Write the letter of the strategy that helped you understand it most, then explain why.

A Background Knowledge	B Wordplay	C Visualization	D Theme
1. What airline do ghosts fly? <i>Boonited Scarelines.</i>  Strategy letter: ____ Why? _____		2. When Oxygen and Magnesium started dating, I was all like... <i>"OMg!"</i>  Strategy letter: ____ Why? _____	
3. What did one canoe say to the other? <i>Are you up for a little row-mance?</i>  Strategy letter: ____ Why? _____		4. What's the Easter Bunny's favorite story? <i>A Cotton Tale.</i>  Strategy letter: ____ Why? _____	

CONNECTING TO OTHER READING

Think about a chapter book, short story, science lesson, or social studies assignment. Did you predict, picture ideas, use background knowledge, notice clues, or figure out a word from context? Those are the same strategies you practiced with joke books.

BONUS CHALLENGE

Which reading strategy has helped you the most? Why do you think it will help you become a better reader?

RALPH'S READING TIP Every great reader has a toolbox full of strategies. The more tools you learn to use, the easier—and more enjoyable—reading becomes!

JOKE BOOK READING ADVENTURE
Keep Reading!

CONGRATULATIONS,
Joke Detective!

You've learned that great readers use lots of different strategies. The more you practice them, the easier it becomes to understand stories, solve jokes, and enjoy reading.

READING STRATEGIES YOU'VE PRACTICED

- ✓ Making predictions
- ✓ Looking for clues
- ✓ Understanding wordplay
- ✓ Using background knowledge
- ✓ Recognizing themes
- ✓ Comparing ideas
- ✓ Visualizing what you read
- ✓ Paying attention to illustrations

Every joke is a tiny reading adventure. Keep reading, keep thinking, and keep laughing!

CONTINUE YOUR JOKE BOOK ADVENTURE

Looking for another great joke book? Try one of these fun themed books by Ralph Lane.

	Dad Jokes Gift Book		Christmas Jokes Gift Book
	Birthday Jokes Gift Book		Easter Jokes Gift Book
	Halloween Jokes Gift Book		Valentine's Day Gift Book
	Math Jokes Gift Book		Science Jokes Gift Book
	Sports Jokes Gift Book		Travel Jokes Gift Book

Which one would you like to read next?

JOKE BOOKS I'D LIKE TO READ

Write down books from the list above—or any other joke books you'd like to read.

MY FAVORITE JOKES

Write down a favorite joke so you can remember it and share it later.

RALPH'S FINAL READING TIP The best readers never stop being curious. Keep reading, keep laughing, and keep discovering new jokes—and new books!