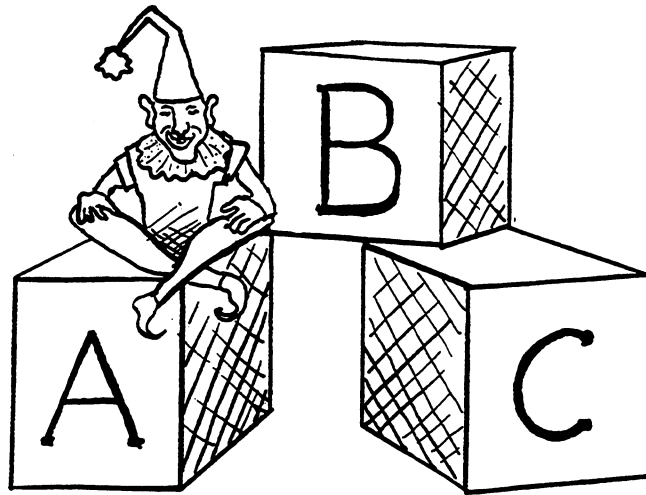


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# Writing an ABC Book of Humor



**Objectives:** To expand vocabulary.  
To use dictionary and thesaurus as learning tools.  
To understand and apply the writing structures of ABC book.

**Materials:** A library collection of various kinds of ABC books  
Dictionaries  
Thesaurus  
Paper and pencil  
Chalkboard  
Butcher paper and markers

**Lesson Aids:** Humor word list  
Bibliography of ABC books  
Young Authors Idea Sheet #1

## Teaching Procedures

Warm up: Discuss the meaning of humor with students. Ask what they think about when they think about humor. Record responses on the chalkboard.

Motivation: Encourage students to expand the list to words related to humor. Use the thesaurus to extend the list. Use such entries as laugh, laughter, comedy, humor, etc. As students use the thesaurus, they will find synonyms and related words whose meanings are unfamiliar. Incorporate use of dictionary to help students understand meaning. For example, what is a chortle? With such unfamiliar words direct students to find the definition, then demonstrate understanding through action or use. For example, can you show the class how to chortle? (Choral responses are particularly useful. It allows each respondent to feel comfortable with their effort.)

Establish Genre: Leave the word wall now generated on the chalkboard. Share ABC books from the library collection. Use a wide variety of types of ABC books. In each, guide students to establish the pattern used by the author. Each will have a specific pattern. Examining 3 or 4 entries will be sufficient to establish patterns. Compare and contrast patterns. Which ABC books are alike? Different?

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# To the Teacher

Guiding Young Authors to Write Humor is designed to teach fundamental writing skills and at the same time bring smiles to writer's faces. In lesson design, the writing process model is consistently used. Prewriting activities include opportunities to read and discuss samples of the specific literary type. Students react to the literature selections, examine and analyze those components, and recognize style. The process model then moves students to drafting ideas using the literary model. Provisions are then made in each lesson to include revision and editing. The structure of the idea book provides individual lessons on a variety of genre used in composing humorous pieces. Students will have opportunities to try writing jokes, riddles, fractured fairy tales, parodies, and a variety of other humorous composition styles.

In addition to composition skills, Guiding Young Authors to Write Humor allows you to interject a little fun in your teaching of basic skills. Each humor style selected has been field tested with student writers. Students will learn to laugh a little at themselves and at the humor of others in a safe environment for learning and enjoying writing.

Guiding Young Authors to Write Humor provides lessons with clearly stated objectives and a complete plan for the teaching of the lesson. If special materials are necessary, those are indicated. Specially developed Young Author Idea Sheets have been developed for each lesson to provide guidelines for completing the prewriting and thinking exercises. These Young Author Idea Sheets are intended to be used with the entire class, small groups and/or individuals.

**Note:**

For easy reference, the teacher background notes are marked with numbered arrows to indicate what Idea Sheet that particular section pertains to.



Refers to  
Idea Sheet No. 14

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