

Jigsaw Jokes - Humor

EXPLANATION:

Developing a sense of humor in younger years improves students' interactions with others, ability to see others' perspectives, 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?

GRADE LEVELS: 1–3

STUDENT GROUPING: Whole group discussion and individual joke finding

ACTIVITY LENGTH: 50–60 minutes

CASEL CORE COMPETENCY: *RELATIONSHIP SKILLS*

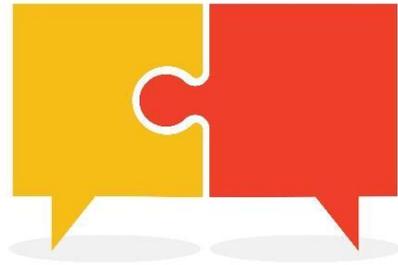
- Communicating effectively
- Developing positive relationships
- You can learn more about the CASEL framework [here](#)

SCOPE OF TASK:

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

1. Activate students' prior knowledge by asking them what a joke is. Remind them that 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? If so, what is it?
- 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 about laughing at someone but laughing at the words and how the words are funny.

2. Discuss the features of a joke—the joke and the punch line—and provide examples, ensuring the students know the different parts and structure of jokes. Depending on students' prior experiences and knowledge, you may choose just one joke form to discuss.
3. Ask students if they know any jokes. Get students to share jokes that they know—monitor what students are saying and respond to or correct their 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 they find these jokes funny. Ask about the structures of the jokes.
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 another piece of paper.
7. When the jokes have been written, have half of the students place both parts in a box to be mixed up.
8. Each student gets to randomly pick one piece of paper. They read the part of the joke and have to find the other half of the joke. Instruct them to each read their part to another student to see if their part finishes the joke. This will be very funny as students mix up punch lines and create more funny jokes.

9. Complete the process again with the remaining students' jokes. 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 joke is the funniest?
- Do any jokes not make sense?

10. Finally, ask students why it is important to laugh.

RESOURCES:

- Joke books
- Paper and pens
- Box