

# Caption Comedy: Make Them Laugh - Humor

## EXPLANATION:

Humor can be used to enhance classroom happiness and develop a sense of community. Writing funny captions for photos requires clever and witty thought and can bring laughter to a classroom when these creations are shared.

**GRADE LEVELS:** 7–10

**STUDENT GROUPING:** Whole group conversation and work in pairs

**ACTIVITY LENGTH:** 40–60 minutes approx.

## CASEL CORE COMPETENCY: *RELATIONSHIP SKILLS*

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

## SCOPE OF TASK:

Research investigating humor indicates that humor positively influences human connections. Non-aggressive, relevant, appropriate humor also is a helpful learning tool when creating a friendly classroom environment.

1. Ask the students about what “funny” means to activate their prior knowledge.

Questions could include:

- What is humor and being “funny”?
- Does it mean different things to different people?
- What do you find funny?
- Can you think of other words that mean the same as “funny”?
- Why is humor important?
- How does laughing make people feel?
- Are there different types of humor?

2. Photo captions and titles provide information about the photo. Often, photos with captions on social media are intended to be funny. Share with students a few school-appropriate examples of funny captioned pictures from the Internet that you have compiled ahead of time.

3. Explain to the students that the purpose of this task is to try and make their friends laugh by writing the funniest caption for a photo or picture. Set some guidelines:

- What type of humor is appropriate for the classroom context?
- What types of captions are appropriate for the classroom context?
- Make a list of humor that may not be appropriate. Some examples might include: captions that mock others and captions that contain inappropriate language.
- Consider discussing the school-appropriate examples that you provided in the previous step in light of these guidelines; perhaps ask students if they know of any funny, school-appropriate captioned photos that they have seen on the Internet that they can describe to the class.

4. Allow students to work in pairs and choose a photo for which they think they can write a funny caption. Remind students that captions are short texts that require proper conventions of grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

5. Some example photos have been included at the end of this document, but there might be others that you can use that relate to the specific classroom context. Print out the photos with a speech bubble, and each pair can create their own caption.

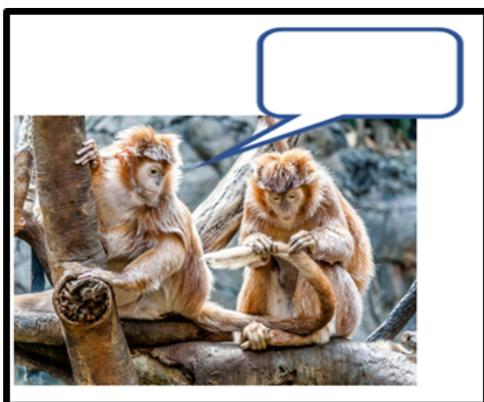
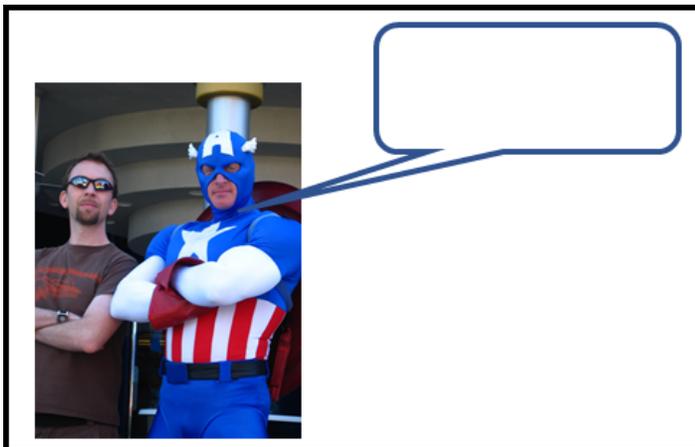
6. Once students have made their captions, reassemble as a group to share the captions. As students share their captions, ask questions:

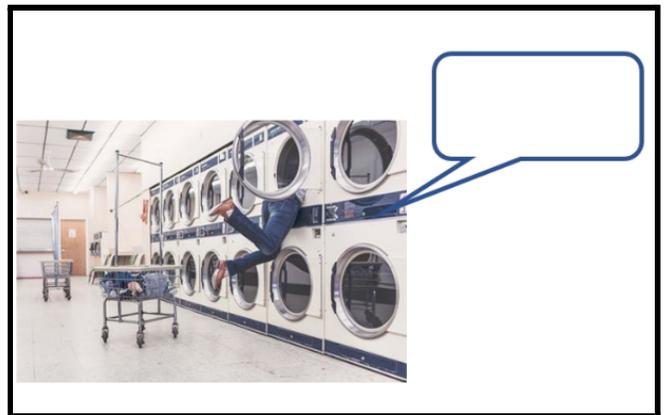
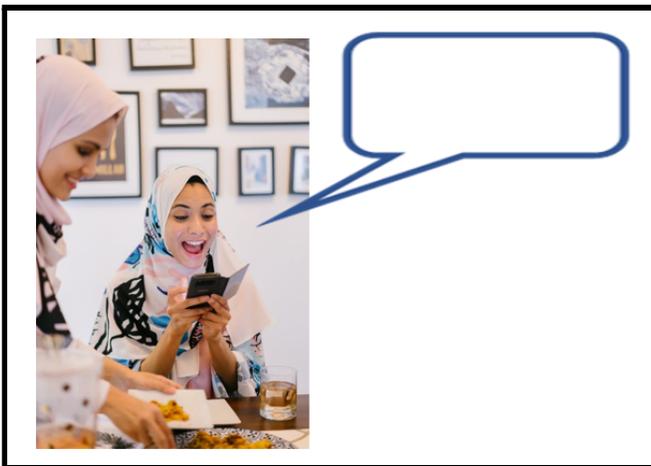
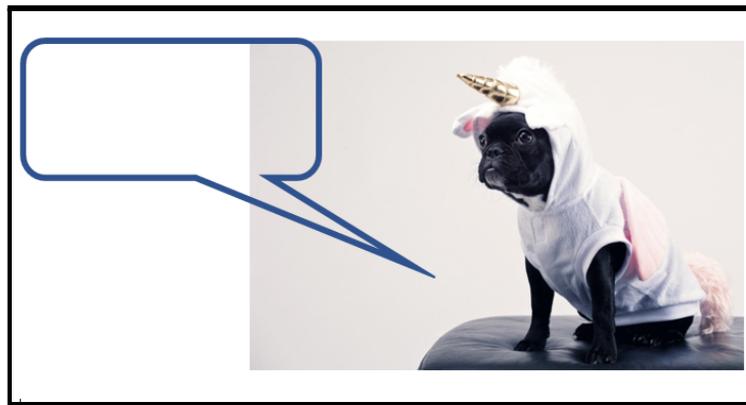
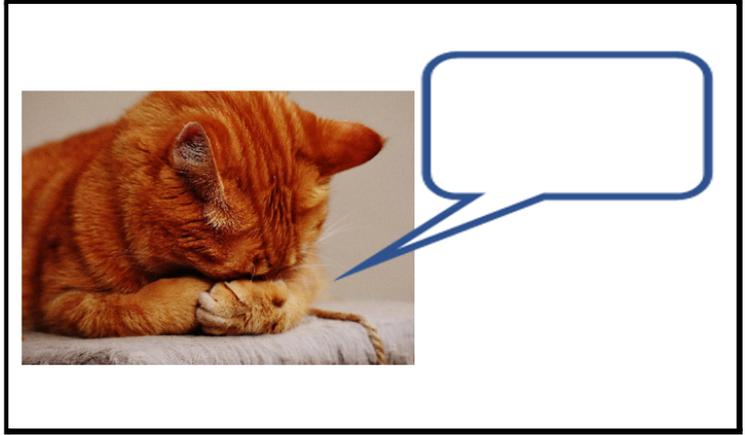
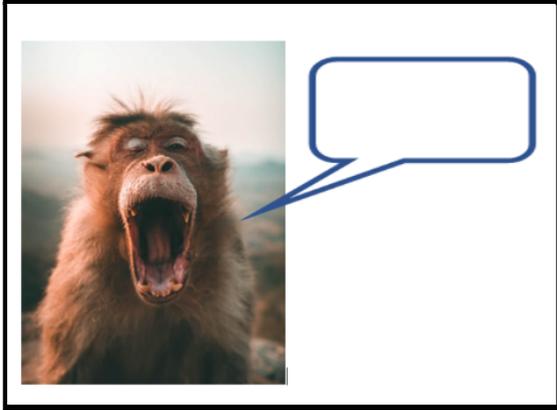
- Was that funny?
- Why did you find it funny?
- Would everyone find that funny? Why/Why not?
- Can we vote for the three funniest captions?
- Will everyone agree?

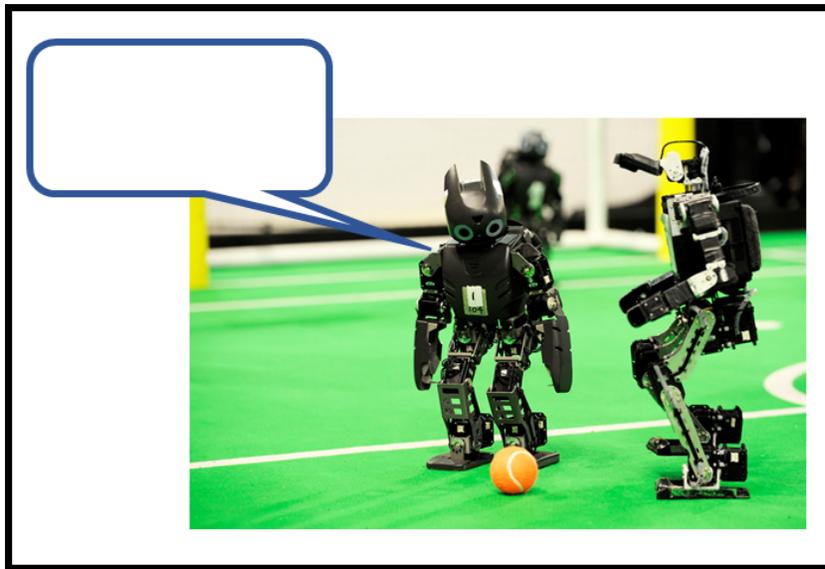
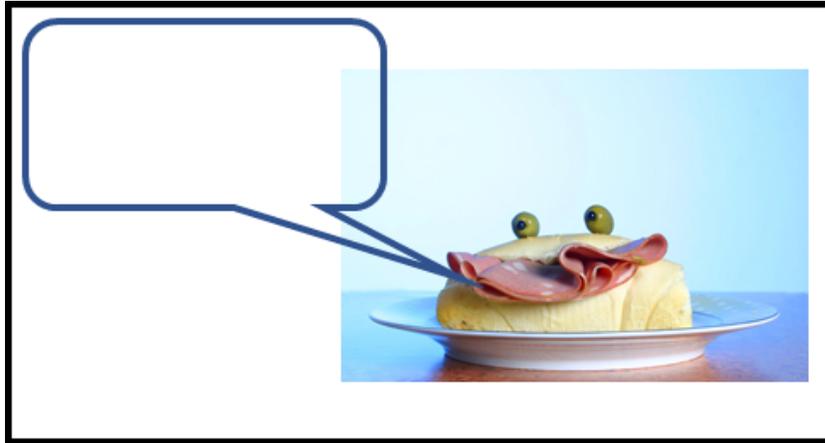
7. Conclude the activity by asking the students to reflect on the importance of humor:

- Why is humor needed in life?
- Why is laughing important?
- How does laughing make you feel?
- Do we need to include humor in our classroom? Why?

## RESOURCES:







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