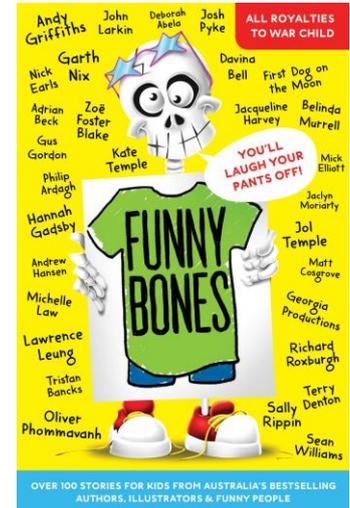


Funny Bones

Edited by Kate Temple,
Jol Temple and
Oliver Phommavanh

November 2019 ISBN 9781760524333
Paperback
Recommended for 8-12-year-olds



Summary

If you think you've heard every funny story there is then think again...

Funny Bones is a super-huge collection of rib-tickling stories, cartoons, comics, jokes and much, much more that's bound to get even the most serious kid laughing.

With over 100 funny stories, hilarious poems and side-splitting drawings from some of Australia's favourite and funniest people including Zoë Foster Blake, Josh Pyke, Andy Griffiths, Terry Denton, Hannah Gadsby, Lawrence Leung, Michelle Law, Adrian Beck, Katrina Nannestad, James O'Loughlin, Tom Jellett, Gus Gordon, Danny Katz, Mitch Vane, Sally Rippin, Tristan Bancks, Jessica Walton, Dougal Macpherson, Garth Nix, The Listies, Georgia Productions as well as Oliver Phommavanh and Kate & Jol Temple, *Funny Bones* will be a bumper addition to any child's bookshelf. It might get you laughing out loud, but it's all for a serious cause – all royalties go to the international aid charity, War Child Australia.

Use in the curriculum

English

Humour is often based on word play. See the discussion questions and activities over the page: they engage students in decoding humour and writing their own funny pieces.

SOSE

Funny Bones was published just after the National School Strike for Climate. Students are keen to know how they can get involved in voluntary support for issues. War Child is the charity dedicated to providing aid to young victims of war all around the world.

All royalties from the sale of *Funny Bones* go to War Child. If studying war or voluntary groups in society, a local bookseller could be contacted to provide a book store at school for a special event where students promote the purchase of *Funny Bones* to raise funds for War Child—www.warchild.org.au. This can be accompanied by posters, talks and information about other volunteer work in related fields:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.au/>

<https://www.unicef.org.au/our-work/information-for-children>

<https://www.unicef.org.au/Upload/UNICEF/Media/Our%20work/childfriendlycrc.pdf>

<https://www.msf.org.au/>

Visit <https://www.allenandunwin.com/resources/for-teachers> for free download-able teachers notes, reviews by teachers, extracts and more. And sign up to the Allen & Unwin e-newsletter to receive monthly updates on new resources!

Contact Carolyn Walsh, Education Marketing Manager,
Ph: +02 8425 0150 Email: education@allenandunwin.com

Themes

- humour
- family
- friendship
- pets
- school
- food
- body functions

Discussion questions and activities

- Look at the front cover of *Funny Bones*. Do you think the book is going to be serious or silly? How do the title (as well as the skeleton's words), cover image, colours and font help you decide? The text at the bottom of the cover says that the book will have over a hundred stories, but what else on the cover tells you there will be lots of stories by different authors?
- Read Fiona Katauskas's piece 'Punbelievable or: a Series of Punfortunate Events (p. 135).' When you are finished, explain what you understand a pun to be. This piece includes lots of different types of puns. Can you name three different types? Give examples from the piece that demonstrate each.
- Sometimes puns can be made even punnier with an illustration or two. Turn to Grange Wallis's piece, 'The King's Armies' (p. 175), and explain how the two illustrations take the humour one step further.
- Nick Earls and Terry Whidborne play word games with accepted phrases in their piece 'Interview with an Alien' (p. 513). Each time the border force agent asks a simple question, the alien interprets the question in a completely unexpected way. Can you explain the humour behind the alien's response to these questions: How are you? Are you well? Do you come in peace?
- Read Oliver Phommavanh and Liz Anelli's piece 'A Taste of Macau' (p. 531) and describe the humour in the narrator's creation of the perfect 'fusion dish', mixing Portuguese and Chinese flavours.
- Humour often features the upending of expectations of someone or something in a story. For instance, in Jaclyn Moriarty and Kelly Canby's 'The Ooooooops Story' (p. 201), Patrick certainly behaves as if he didn't do his homework but turns out to be telling the truth. And although we might focus on the gross aspects of a dog sitting in soup, Pip turns out to be the secret ingredient in Andrew Hansen and Jessica Roberts's story by the same name (p. 31). Can you find other examples of this type of humour in *Funny Bones*?
- There's humour in talking about gross things like farts and snot. Read Josh Pyke's 'Disgusting Things' (p. 301) and discuss why you think many children might find this poem funny. **Extension Question:** Does the fact that these things are framed in a poem make the piece funnier? Why do you think that?
- Another kind of humour is created when we take something ordinary and a little boring and pair it with the extraordinary or plain ridiculous. Read Kate and Jol Temple's 'Garden Gnomes and How to Get Rid of Them' (p. 319) and explain how this type of humour works here.
- Choose your favourite story, poem, cartoon or comic from *Funny Bones* and explain to the rest of the class what it is about this piece you find funny. In your explanation, try to include which type of humour is in the piece: pun, breaking expectations, gross details, contrasting ordinary with the extraordinary, etc.
- Choose one of the types of humour described above and come up with your own funny story, poem, cartoon or comic.

- The front cover mentions the international aid charity War Child. Go to www.warchild.org.au to answer the following questions:
 - What is War Child?
 - Who does it help?
 - How does it provide help?
 - Where has it provided help?

In the Editor's Own Words

'What I love about *Funny Bones* is that it engages humour in all kinds of ways, through pictures, cartoons, comics, stories, poems and even the simple joke or one-liner. Kids will be drawn to their favourite writers, but they may discover new ones through this collection. Similarly, kids who don't like poetry could be drawn to a poem, or other storytelling forms like comics and cartoons. *Funny Bones* will cater for every child.

'It was exciting to make a list of Australia's funniest authors and illustrators. Our editorial team had high hopes of getting a lot of the authors and illustrators we approached on board. I was humbled with the response that we received – most people were happy to contribute. We were blown away with the generous responses. All the editors exploded into giggles as we read the different entries that came through.

'My story, "A Taste of Macau", was inspired by my visit in 2017 for The Script Road festival. People travel for all kinds of reasons, and mine is food, specifically burgers. I have a knack of eating McDonalds wherever I go (26 countries and counting) and this was Albert's aim in my story. Albert is my main character from the *Thai-riffic!* books so it was nice to have a mini-adventure with one of my favourite characters.'

— Oliver Phommavanh

Editor Background



Kate and Jol Temple write funny books for kids. Their award-winning book *Captain Jimmy Cook Discovers Third Grade* was selected as a CBCA Honour Book and inspired the ridiculous spin-off, *Yours Troolie, Alice Toolie*. Kate and Jol are ambassadors for Raising Literacy Australia.

Oliver Phommavanh loves to make people laugh on stage as a comedian, and on the page as a children's author of books such as *Thai-riffic!*, *Con-nerd* and *Natural Born Loser*.



photo: Stephen John Walton

About War Child

War Child is an international relief and development agency dedicated to providing immediate, effective and sustainable aid to children affected by war. War Child was formed in 1993 in response to conflict in the former Yugoslavia and has since expanded its work to conflicts worldwide. War Child Australia is an all-volunteer organisation that was established in July 2002. Since that time, War Child Australia has been committed to providing aid to young victims of war all around the world—www.warchild.org.au.