GOALS:

* Analyze how authors convey humor in speech and writing
* Write and present an oral reading of an original anecdote
* Analyze the grammar & sentence structure of a humorous text

**STEP ONE:**

DEFINE anecdote: (brief, entertaining account of an incident or event)

QUICKWRITE: WRITE a humorous anecdote that your family tells over and over

Why is it told? Who tells it? How does it change over time?

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**STEP TWO:**

WATCH a comedian tell a humorous anecdote.

COMPLETE notetakers while watching the performance.

1. LIST the different topics that are mentioned

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| comedian’s persona | people | places | events |
|  |  |  |  |

B) **ANSWER** the questions on HOW the comedian delivers the anecdote.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Describe the comedian’s delivery. What is the effect on the audience:   Tone:  Facial expressions:  Gestures:  Volume:  Pacing:  Inflection (emphasis):  Effect: | 2) Record the comedian’s TRANSITIONS between topics within his anecdotes. |
| 3) Describe the IMAGERY the comedian uses.  TOPIC:  DESCRIPTIVE DETAILS:  FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE: | 4) What is the TONE:  When does the TONE SHIFT?  HOW did you know it shifted? |

**STEP THREE:**

ANSWER these questions with complete sentences.

1)How is the comedian able to create laughter in the audience by telling such simple anecdotes?

2) How would you describe the type of comedy that the comedian uses?

Underline the words used from the list on page 4 of SB 4.2.

3) What is the intended response? Underline the words used from the list on page 5 of SB 4.2.

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**STEP FOUR: BEFORE READING:**

Make a LIST of the funny memories you have regarding ROAD TRIPS or RIDING in some sort of transportation (car, truck, bus, train, airplane, RV, camper)

CHOOSE 1 of those memories.

DRAW a sketch of a time that you remember that makes you laugh.

**STEP FIVE:**

* READ anecdote.
* MAKE metacognitive markers

“Brothers” by Jon Scieszka from his book Knucklehead

Brothers are the guys you stick with and stick up for.

The Scieszka brothers are scattered all over the country now, but we still get together once a year to play a family golf tournament. We named it after our dad, Lou, and his favorite car—his old Cadillac Coupe de Ville. It is the Coupe de Lou Classic. We all grew up playing golf, because Dad Lou, an elementary school principal, taught Junior Golf and gave us lessons during summers off . And I’m sure my brothers would want me to point out the amazing fact that I am the winner of both the very first Coupe de Lou 1983 and the latest Coupe de Lou 2004.

But of all the Scieszka brother memories, I believe it was a family car trip that gave

us our finest moment of brotherhood. We were driving cross-country from Michigan

to Florida, all of us, including the family cat (a guy cat, naturally), in the family station

wagon. Somewhere mid-trip we stopped at one of those Stuckey’s rest-stop restaurants

to eat and load up on Stuckey’s candy.

We ate lunch, ran around like maniacs in the warm sun, then packed back into the

station wagon—Mom and Dad up front, Jim, Jon, Tom, Gregg, Brian, Jeff , and the cat

in back. Somebody dropped his Stuckey’s Pecan Log Roll on the floor. The cat found it

and must have scarfed every bit of it, because two minutes later we heard that awful ack

ack ack sound of a cat getting ready to barf.

The cat puked up the pecan nut log. Jeff, the youngest and smallest (and closest to

the floor) was the first to go. He got one look and whiff of the pecan nut cat yack and

blew his own sticky lunch all over the cat. The puke-covered cat jumped on Brian, Brian

barfed on Gregg. Gregg upchucked on Tom. Tom burped a bit of Stuckey lunch back on

Gregg. Jim and I rolled down the windows and hung out as far as we could, yelling in

group puke horror.

Dad Lou didn’t know what had hit the back of the car. No time to ask questions. He

just pulled off to the side of the road. All of the brothers—Jim, Jon, Tom, Gregg, Brian,

and Jeff —spilled out of the puke wagon and fell in the grass, gagging and yelling and

laughing until we couldn’t laugh anymore.

What does it all mean? What essential guy wisdom did I learn from this?

Stick with your brothers. Stick up for your brothers. And if you ever drop a pecan

nut log in a car with your five brothers and your cat . . . you will probably stick to your brothers.

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**STEP SIX:**

* ANSWER questions with COMPLETE sentences.
* FIND examples of all types of writing, verbals, and punctuation

1)CIRCLE these 3 punctuation marks in the anecdote: hyphen dash ellipsis

EXPLAIN how the author USES these in the anecdote.

2) What phrase is used as PARALLELISM? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3) What is the author’s ATTITUDE (tone) about the topic?

4) WRITE 5 words that show PRECISE DICTION used for effect.

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5) CHOOSE 1 piece of figurative language and write it here:

6) What is the intended response that the author wants? (page 5 of SB 4.2 notetaker)

7) What type of humor is used here? (page 4 of SB 4.2 notetaker)

8) What is the CENTRAL IDEA of this text?

9) What idea about life is the author trying to share?

FIND an example of each of these. WRITE it in the box.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Gerund |  |
| Participial |  |
| Infinitive |  |

FIND an example of each of these. WRITE it in the box.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Compound sentence |  |
| Appositive |  |
| Imperative sentence |  |
| Interrogative sentence |  |
| Complex sentence |  |
| Declarative sentence |  |
| Low Comedy |  |
| Juxtaposition |  |
| High comedy |  |
| Persona |  |
| Active Voice  (entire sentence) |  |
| Transition word |  |
| Passive voice  (entire sentence) |  |
| onomatopoeia |  |
| SATIRE |  |

Next, we’ll be looking at Humorous Poetry! Use SPRINGBOARD glossary (pages 348 - 356).

WRITE the definition in your own words!

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| --- | --- |
| 1. ALLITERATION | 2) CARICATURE |
| 3) HYPERBOLE | 4) IRONY |
| 5) PUN | 6) YARN |

