



Resource Guide for *Operation Laughter* by Dawn Renee Young

Overview

Operation Laughter follows Millie, a spirited girl who loves telling jokes, as she learns when and how to use humor to brighten others' days. Along the way, she navigates friendship, family, and finding the right time for laughter. The story is full of kid-friendly jokes and gentle lessons about empathy, timing, and self-expression.

Learning Objectives

1. **Literacy:** Develop reading comprehension and vocabulary skills.
2. **Social-Emotional Learning:** Explore empathy, timing, and self-awareness.
3. **Speaking/Listening:** Practice joke-telling and public speaking.
4. **Community Building:** Foster a positive, joyful classroom culture



Lesson Ideas

Pre-Reading Activities

Activate Prior Knowledge

1. Ask: "What's your favorite joke? Why do you think people tell jokes?"
2. Discuss: "When is a good time to be funny? When might it not be?"

Predict and review

1. Show the cover and read the title. Ask students what they think the story will be about.
2. Skim the table of contents together. What do they notice about the chapter titles?

During Reading

1. Vocabulary to Pre-Teach

- Joke-teller
- Operation
- Interrupt
- Reassure
- Pep talk

2. Reading Strategies

- Pause for Jokes: Let students guess the punchline before reading it aloud.
- Character Feelings: After each chapter, ask, "How do you think Millie feels right now? Why?"
- Make Connections: "Has anything like this ever happened to you?"

Post Reading Activities

1. Comprehension Questions

- Why does Millie want to become a joke-teller?
- How does Millie make her friends and family laugh?
- What happens when Millie tells jokes at the wrong time?
- How does Millie learn about the right time and place for humor?
- How does laughter help Millie and her friends, especially when Sara gets hurt?
- What lesson does Millie learn from her Grandpa?

2. Discussion Starters

- Why is laughter important?
- Can you think of a time when a joke made you feel better?
- Why is it important to pay attention to timing when telling jokes?
- How can you tell if someone wants to laugh, or if they need to be serious?

Cross-Curricular Connections

1. **Math:** Create “Joke Math Problems” (e.g., If Millie tells 3 jokes each to 4 friends, how many jokes did she tell?)
2. **Science:** Explore why laughter is good for your health.
3. **Health:** Discuss emotions and how humor can help us cope.



Humor is a powerful tool for connection, learning, and joy. Use *Operation Laughter* to help your students discover the value of laughter—and the importance of kindness and understanding!

Extension Ideas

Assessment & Reflection

- Observe students' participation in discussions and activities.
- Collect Joke Journals or journal responses.
- Have students reflect: "What did you learn from Millie's story? How will you use humor kindly?"

Family Connection

- Send home a "Joke of the Day" for students to share with their families.
- Encourage students to collect jokes from family members to share in class.

Additional Resources

- Author's website: [mrsgoodchoice.com](https://www.mrsgoodchoice.com)
- Follow-up books by Dawn Renee Young for further reading.

Connect with the Author

Author's Website: <https://www.mrsgoodchoice.com>

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