

## **Elements of a Story: Comedy**

In the box below are just some of the features that could be included in a comedy book. Can you give an example of these features? These can be made up or inspired by things you've seen, read or experienced!

<b><u>Key Feature:</u></b>	<b><u>Example:</u></b>
Puns or other forms of word play	
Exaggerated language (hyperbole) or imagery	
Characters' dialogue showing confusion/exasperation/hilarity	
Dramatic irony (when the reader knows something the characters don't)	

## Example One: 'Demon Dentist' by David Walliams

Miss Root's hair was white-blond, and arranged in a perfectly lacquered 'do', usually only spotted on the heads of Queens or Prime Ministers. The 'do' was shaped much like a Mr Whippy ice cream, minus the flake, of course.

In a certain light she looked very old. Her features were narrow and pointy, and her skin pale as snow. However, the dentist had painstakingly painted on so much make-up that it was impossible to tell how old she really was.

50?

90?

900?

Finally Miss Root reached the front of the hall. She turned around, and smiled. The low winter sun shone through the high windows and bounced off her teeth, causing the front few rows to cover their eyes.

"Good morning, children...!" she said brightly. The dentist spoke in a singsong manner, as if she were recounting a nursery rhyme. There was a collective groan from the kids at being spoken to as if they were toddlers.

"I said, good morning, children..." repeated the dentist, and she fixed them all with a powerful stare. So powerful that soon a hush descended upon the room. Then in unison all the assembled pupils said: "Good morning."

"Let me introduce myself. I am your new dentist. My name is Miss Root, but I ask all my little patients like you to call me 'Mummy'."

Alfie and Gabz shared a look of disbelief.

"So can I hear a great big 'Hello, Mummy'? After three! One, two, three..."

## Example Two: 'The Princess Diaries' by Meg Cabot

Tuesday, September 23

Sometimes it seems like all I ever do is lie. My mom thinks I'm repressing my feelings about this.

I say to her, "No, Mom, I'm not. I think it's really neat. As long as you're happy, I'm happy."

Mom says, "I don't think you're being honest with me."

Then she hands me this book. She tells me she wants me to write down my feelings in this book, since, she says, I obviously don't feel I can talk about them with her.

She wants me to write down my feelings? Okay, I'll write down my feelings: I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S DOING THIS TO ME!

Like everybody doesn't already think I'm a freak. I'm practically the biggest freak in the entire school. I mean, let's face it: I'm five foot nine, flat-chested, and a freshman. How much more of a freak could I be?

If people at school find out about this, I'm dead. That's it. Dead.

Oh, God, if you really do exist, please don't let them find out about this.

There are four million people in Manhattan, right? That makes about two million of them guys. So out of TWO MILLION guys, she has to go out with Mr. Gianini. She can't go out with some guy I don't know. She can't go out with some guy she met at D'Agostinos or wherever. Oh, no.

She has to go out with my Algebra teacher.

Thanks, Mom. Thanks a whole lot.

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### Example Three: 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' by Jeff Kinney



## **What Would You Change?**

Now that you've read some examples and decided what worked well and what wasn't effective in these, what examples would you use now? You should definitely make these up yourself this time - test your understanding, creativity, and comedic skills!

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