# Lesson 1: Let's Laugh!

# UNIT: Funny Memories

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# TRANSCRIPT

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## HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Anne.

One of my favorite books is called Bob, Not Bob! by Audrey Vernick and Liz Garton Scanlon.

I love this book because every time I read it, it makes me laugh. In this story, the character has a really bad cold. He keeps trying to call "Mom," but his cold is so bad—it sounds like "Bob." So the dog keeps coming instead. I always laugh when I read it because you have to read the whole book as if you have a terrible cold.

There are lots of things that make me laugh—funny books, funny podcasts, TV shows, or people in my life that make me laugh all the time.

## DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: What is something that always makes you laugh?

## HOOK 2

I don't know what you said, but there are lots of things that make me laugh. And sometimes the things that make me laugh the most are things that happen in real life.

Like one time, I was going to get my clean laundry, and this happened—my cat had climbed right in it and was taking a nap. Or another time, my friend saw these silly costumes that looked like puppets. When they danced around, they looked hilarious.

Whenever something funny happens, I love to share that story with others. When I tell a funny story, I can make other people laugh too.

As a writer, I love to write about joyful things that happen in my life. One of the most joyful things you can do is laugh. That's why I'm starting a new writing festival in your classroom: Funny Memories.

You can write a story of something funny that happened in your life that made you laugh. Writing stories that happened to you helps you remember them forever, and plus you can share those funny moments with others.

You might already have an idea of something funny that happened to you, or you might not have any ideas at all, and that's okay. When writers think of ideas for a story, they start by brainstorming lots of ideas. Then later on, they can pick which idea they like the best.

Sometimes it can help to answer a question to get started. Let's try and brainstorm all together. Think about a time you laughed at school. Maybe you heard a funny joke or someone wore a costume or maybe one time a ball got stuck in a tree.

## DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: What is something that happened at school that made you laugh?

## HOOK 3

I don't know what funny things have happened at your school, but maybe one time there was a silly hair day at school and someone really had fun with it. Or maybe one time someone was eating and got food all over their face.

Or check this out—this school had a dunk tank, and the teacher got it. The kids dunked their teacher.

It's okay if your ideas were different. That's the great thing about writing stories from your life. All of our lives are different, and our stories will be too.

Today, you can do what all story writers do before they write a story—you'll brainstorm lots of ideas. In a brainstorm, you can write any idea that you have and don't worry if it's a good idea or not.

I'll have some questions that you can use to help you come up with lots of ideas. Then later on, you can look at all your ideas and pick the one that you want to write as your funny memory.

I'll get you started, step by step.

## STEP 1

Get your supplies.

## STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near.

When everyone knows who their talk partner is, move on to the next step.

## STEP 3

Get your Brainstorming worksheet.

When you brainstorm ideas for a story, the goal is to write down a few words to remember each of your ideas. You don't need to write in complete sentences.

When I remembered the story of how my cat surprised me by sleeping on my clean laundry, I just wrote "cat in laundry".

And when I thought of my friend who made these amazing costumes, I wrote "puppet costumes". And when I thought of this, I wrote "teacher dunk tank". These are my funny memories from my life. Your brainstorming space is for the funny memories from your life.

If you already have some ideas for stories, write them down now. Put each idea in a different box.

If you don't have any ideas yet, that's okay. We will all work together to come up with more ideas.

When you're ready to continue brainstorming, move on to the next step.

## STEP 4

Sometimes questions can help writers come up with ideas. Here are two questions that might give you an idea of a time you laughed: What is something funny that happened that made a big mess? And what is something funny that happened with an animal?

Discuss with your partner: What stories come to mind of a time that made you laugh?

## STEP 5

If you discussed any memories that made you laugh, you can add them to your Brainstorming worksheet now. Remember to write each idea in its own space.

## STEP 6

Here are two more questions to help you think of ideas: What is the time someone was acting silly or goofy? And when was the time something funny happened during a sports game?

Discuss with your partner: What stories come to mind of a time that made you laugh?

## STEP 7

If you discussed any memories that made you laugh, can add them to your Brainstorming worksheet now.

## STEP 8

It's time for a writing tip.

As a community of writers in your classroom, it's always important to write stories that are kind. Sometimes something happens that is funny to one person but can make someone else feel bad.

Double check your story ideas. If any of them would not be kind towards someone in your class, draw an "x" next to that idea.

## STEP 9

Another strategy for brainstorming is to hear ideas from others.

In a moment, you'll hear some of the funny story ideas from your classmates. As you listen, if you remember the same story, you can add it to your brainstorming worksheet. Or hearing a story might make you think of something similar that happened to you. As you listen, you can keep adding ideas to your brainstorming worksheet.

Discuss as a class: What are some memories you have of a time you left?

## STEP 10

As a writer, it helps to have lots of ideas to choose from so that you can pick your best idea for a story.

Read the story ideas you've written so far. If you think of any more ideas, you can add them.

## STEP 11

Now that you've had some time to brainstorm, you may have lots of ideas, or you might have just a few, and that's okay. You'll only write one of your ideas as a story.

To help you decide which story idea to write about, you can think about your ideas in different ways. You'll put check marks next to the ideas that stand out to you. Then you can pick one of your ideas that has the most checks.

For the Funny Memory Writing Festival, we'll be writing short stories about a single funny event. Some stories take place over days, months, years. But for this festival, our stories will each be about one funny moment.

Read your story ideas and put a check next to any ideas that are a single event or one funny thing that happened.

## STEP 12

As a writer, it's important to pick a story idea where you remember lots of details—like, who was there? Where did the story happen? What was going on?

Put a check next to any ideas that you remember a lot of detail about. It's okay if some of your ideas have more than one check.

## STEP 13

Finally, think about which story ideas are the most exciting to you.

Put a check next to the ideas that you are the most excited to write about. You can choose more than one if you want.

## STEP 14

It's time to decide. Pick the idea that you want to write about that has at least one check.

Circle the story idea you want to write for the Funny Memories Writing Festival.

## WRAP UP

Amazing job, writers!

Brainstorming story ideas isn't easy. You started today with a blank page of no ideas. Then you came up with lots of ideas and now you have the idea that you will write as a story. That is a huge accomplishment. No matter which story idea you picked, your ideas are going to make amazing stories.

In the next lesson, you'll use the idea you chose to make a plan for your writing. Then later on, you'll write your very own funny memory story. I'll see you next time!