

Absurdities

REM 201C

A TEACHING RESOURCE FROM...



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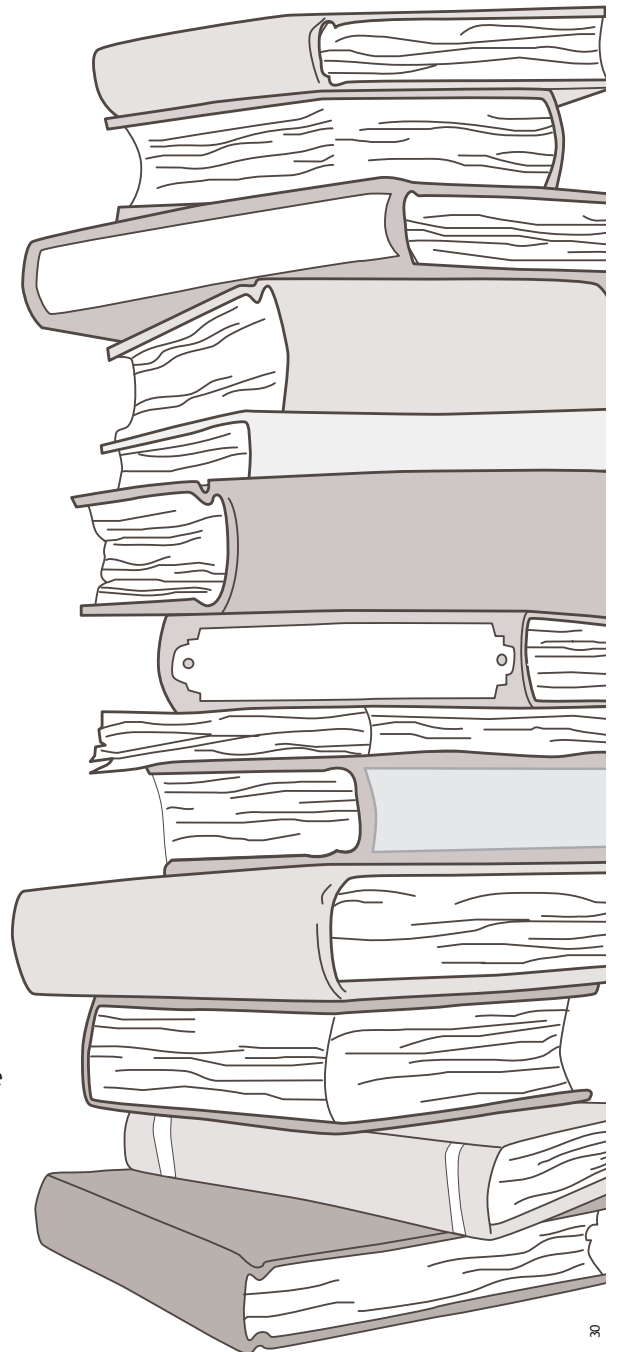
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INTRODUCTION

Introducing children to absurdities serves two purposes - both essential in effective problem-solving and decision-making. First, it helps them become more aware of the need to analyze the logic and apply common sense reasoning to communication. As they do this, their skill in making judgments and finding solutions increases. Second, it helps them begin to recognize absurdity as being a key component of humor.

Research offers strong evidence of the value of humor as an important tool for emotional balance, intellectual growth, and even physical well being. Used properly, it can turn the reluctant learner into an eager student.

You will find this book to be an effective teaching tool for many ages and readability levels. Based on Bloom's Taxonomy of thinking skills, it is suitable for use in grades 3-6. Readability is approximately at the 3rd-4th grade level. (Keep in mind that readability scales, though useful, are guidelines only. They cannot measure every factor affecting readability, such as sentence structure or appeal to the reader. Also, scales can differ from each other in the results they yield).

A pre/post test is included at the end of the book to evaluate students' progress. All activities are reproducible for use in a variety of teaching, practice, and reinforcement situations. They are appropriate for whole class, small group, or individual use. Oral discussion of the work as it is completed will increase the level of student understanding.

THE CRITICAL THINKING SERIES

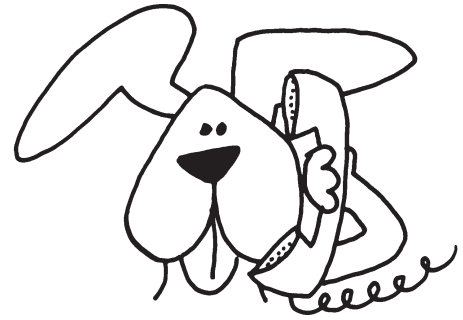
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What is an absurdity?

If you look in Mr. Webster's dictionary, it says
an absurdity is something ridiculous,
not possible, or just plain nonsense.

That's why absurdities are fun.
They are nonsense!



Read this sentence: My dog was talking on the phone to his friend.
Is the sentence absurd? Why?

Change one word in the sentence so it will make sense. Write your sentence.

Read this sentence: My dad is six feet tall.

Is the sentence right? _____ Is it absurd? _____ Is it possible? _____

Why or why not? _____

Read this sentence: My dad is 26 feet tall.

Is the sentence right? _____ Is it absurd? _____ Is it possible? _____

Why or why not? _____

Finish this sentence with an absurdity.

My cat jumped over _____ .

Now finish it with a possibility.

My cat jumped over _____ .

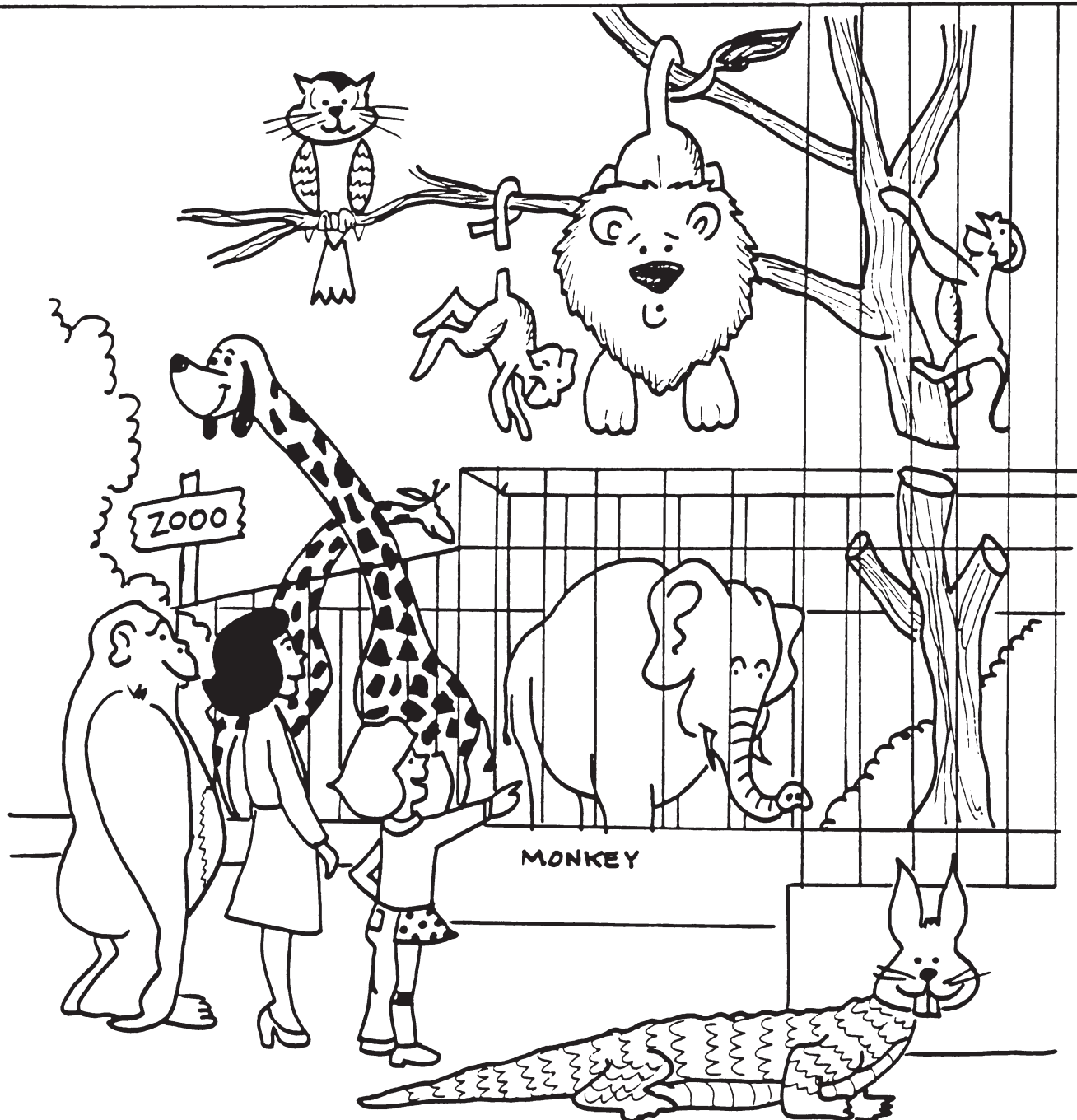
Circle all the answers that would make these sentences absurdities.

1. At lunch today, Mr. Oink ate 72 hot dogs 4 hamburgers a whole pizza
2. My dad can lift our car run faster than I can snore real loud
3. The fish I caught was 1 mile long bigger than our boat as long as my arm
4. He taught his dog to fetch the paper catch elephants sing a song

What a zoo!!!

This zoo is really an absurdity!

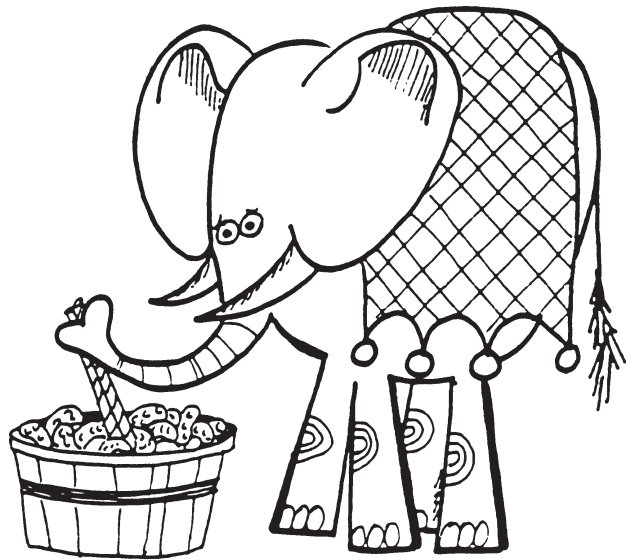
Can you find 11 absurd things about it?
Write them on the back of this page.



Each of the sentences below is an absurdity. They don't make sense!

Read each sentence carefully.
Look at the underlined word.

Can you change the word so the sentence makes sense? Write the word on the line.



1. The bear blew out the candles on his cake. _____
2. In the fall, the bus lost all its leaves. _____
3. The mother hen took care of her baby kitten. _____
4. When I'm happy, I frown a lot. _____
5. You should brush your feet after meals. _____
6. I couldn't sleep last night because the sun was shining in my eyes. _____
7. After school, we ate a midnight snack. _____
8. He went up the stairs to the basement. _____
9. I ate my soup with a pencil. _____
10. Elephants love to drink peanuts. _____
11. Mom put the ice cream in the oven. _____
12. The old horse hopped down the road. _____
13. The candle sang very brightly. _____
14. Jim fell and broke his shirt. _____

Bonus: Think of three absurd sentences. Write them on the back of this paper.
Can someone spot your absurdities and correct them?



**These sentences are absurdities . . .
absolute nonsense!**

**Can you find a way to change them so
they do make sense?**

**Circle the word(s) you want to change
and put your new word on the line after
each sentence.**

1. Sam went surfing on his skis. _____
2. Corp's shoes were wet, so he put them on to dry. _____
3. He took my story with his new camera. _____
4. We carved a jack-o-lantern for Christmas. _____
5. Which telephone show is your favorite? _____
6. My dog has soft feathers. _____
7. She dripped crumbs in her lap. _____
8. The cat married the mouse. _____
9. Granny was resting in her favorite cactus. _____
10. The grasshopper skated across the sidewalk. _____
11. The car was sailing on the lake. _____
12. Jan blew a letter to her mom. _____
13. When we left, we said hello. _____
14. The turtle ran quickly across the path. _____

Bonus: Can you find more than one way to change some of the sentences above? Choose three sentences. Write them a different way on the back of this paper.

Name _____

ABSURDITIES

These are "cause and effect" absurdities.

Each tells something that caused something else to happen. Circle the part of each sentence that makes it absurd.



Write each sentence so it will make sense.

1. Since Mom and Dad were still asleep, Jim turned the TV up very loud.

2. The oven was off, so I put the cookies in to bake.

3. It was snowing outside, so we put on our swimsuits to go out and play.

4. It was Carol's birthday, so Maggie blew out the candles.

5. Grandpa wasn't wearing his glasses, so I had to talk real loud.

