

ReadQuest – Joke Book

A Spark & Anvil joke book. Groan-worthy puns, tricky riddles, silly nonsense, and real fun facts from the world of ReadQuest – read them out loud and make someone laugh.

Why did the book go to the hospital?

Because it had a broken spine!

How to use this book

Read a joke, pause at the question, and try to guess the answer before you read on. Best of all: read them out loud to a friend, a grown-up, or your class. A good laugh makes the tricky stuff easier – that's real science.

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Puns

Why did the book go to the hospital?

💡 Because it had a broken spine!

Why are books the best friends?

💡 Because you can always count on them to have great character!

Why did the reader get lost in the novel?

💡 Because the plot kept twisting!

What did the thesaurus eat for breakfast?

💡 A synonym roll!

Why was the dictionary feeling down?

💡 Because it knew all the definitions of "sad"!

Why did the metaphor refuse to explain itself?

💡 Because it said, "I'm not literal -- you have to figure me out!"

What did the protagonist say to the antagonist?

💡 "Without me, you'd have nobody to oppose. You're welcome for the conflict!"

Why did the autobiography feel so self-centered?

💡 Because it was always talking about itself!

What do you call a story set in a bakery?

💡 A tale that's always rising in action!

Why did the reading comprehension question feel misunderstood?

💡 Because nobody ever gave it the right answer!

Why was the cliff-hanger so stressful?

💡 Because it left everyone hanging at the end of every chapter!

What did the first-person narrator say?

💡 "I'm the most important character in this story -- literally everything is about me!"

Why did the simile and the metaphor get in a fight?

💡 The simile said, "I'm LIKE you," and the metaphor said, "No -- I AM you." Neither would back down.

Why don't authors ever win at hide and seek?

💡 Because good readers always find them between the lines!

Why did the bibliography show up at the end of the paper?

💡 Because it always wants the last word -- or rather, the last source!

Why did the poem feel underappreciated?

💡 Because people kept reading it but never understood its deeper meaning!

What did the setting say to the characters?

💡 "Without me, you'd all be floating in a void. Show some gratitude for the atmosphere!"

Why was the genre always changing its mind?

💡 Because one day it was fiction, the next it was fantasy, and by Friday it was science fiction!

What did the table of contents say to the index?

💡 "I tell you where to start; you tell them where to look. We make a great team!"

Why did the essay's thesis statement feel so important?

💡 Because without it, the whole argument fell apart -- it was the main point, after all!

Riddles

I tell you when and where a story takes place. I can be a haunted castle, a busy city, or a faraway planet. What am I?

💡 The setting! Every story needs a time and place.

I'm the struggle between two forces in a story -- maybe a hero versus a villain, or a character versus nature. Without me, stories would be boring. What am I?

💡 Conflict! It drives every plot forward.

I'm the lesson or message that an author wants you to take away from a story. I'm never stated directly -- you have to figure me out from the events and characters. What am I?

💡 The theme! Examples include friendship, courage, and perseverance.

I compare two unlike things using "like" or "as." For example, "Her smile was bright as the sun." What am I?

💡 A simile! My cousin the metaphor makes the same comparison but without "like" or "as."

I'm the turning point of a story -- the most exciting or intense moment. Everything before me builds up, and everything after me winds down. What am I?

 The climax! The peak of the plot's rising action.

An author puts a clue in chapter 1 that doesn't seem important until chapter 20 when everything makes sense. What literary device is this?

 Foreshadowing! Authors plant hints about future events early in the story.

I'm a type of text that is made up from the author's imagination. My characters, events, and settings might be inspired by real life, but they aren't real. What am I?

 Fiction! The opposite of nonfiction.

I'm the perspective from which a story is told. If the narrator uses "I" and "me," I'm first person. If the narrator uses "he," "she," or "they," I'm third person. What am I?

 Point of view!

I give human qualities to non-human things. When the wind "whispers" or the sun "smiles," that's me at work. What am I?

 Personification! A type of figurative language.

I'm a statement that seems contradictory but actually reveals a deeper truth. "The only thing I know is that I know nothing" is one of me. What am I?

 A paradox! Often used by authors to make readers think more deeply.

I'm the reason an author wrote a text. I might be to inform, persuade, entertain, or explain. What am I?

💡 The author's purpose! Understanding me helps you read more critically.

A reader uses clues from the text plus their own knowledge to figure out something the author didn't directly say. What is this reading skill?

💡 Making an inference! It's like being a detective with words.

I'm a character who changes and grows throughout a story, often because of the events they experience. What type of character am I?

💡 A dynamic character! A static character stays the same from beginning to end.

I'm a story within a story, where the author interrupts the current timeline to show events from the past. What am I?

💡 A flashback! I help readers understand a character's history or motivation.

I'm a short comparison that says one thing IS another thing, without using "like" or "as." "Time is money" is one of me. What am I?

💡 A metaphor! I create a direct connection between two unlike things.

I'm the part of the plot that comes after the climax, where problems are resolved and loose ends are tied up. What am I?

💡 The resolution (or denouement)! I bring the story to a satisfying close.

I'm a reference in a text to a well-known person, place, event, or other work of literature. When a character says "I feel like I've opened Pandora's box," that's me. What am I?

💡 An allusion!

I'm the overall feeling or atmosphere that a story creates. I might be spooky, cheerful, tense, or melancholy. What am I?

💡 Mood! Authors use word choice, setting, and pacing to create me.

I organize a nonfiction text by explaining what happened and why it happened. I use signal words like "because," "therefore," and "as a result." What text structure am I?

💡 Cause and effect!

I'm the voice and attitude of the author toward their subject. I might be serious, humorous, sarcastic, or passionate. What am I?

💡 Tone! I'm different from mood -- I'm about the author's feelings, not the reader's.

Silly Stuff

A character in a novel walks into a room "described in vivid detail." Meanwhile, the reader's brain has to build the entire room from scratch using only words. Reading is basically constructing a movie set in your head with zero budget and infinite imagination.

Every villain in literature thinks they're the hero of their own story. The dragon who kidnaps the princess? In its version, it's protecting a friend from a sword-wielding stranger who broke into its home. Point of view changes everything.

In fiction, the "chosen one" is always a regular kid who didn't study, barely pays attention, and suddenly discovers they have world-saving powers. Meanwhile, the straight-A student in the background who actually prepared for every scenario gets completely ignored by destiny.

An author once wrote a novel without using the letter "e" -- it's called "Gadsby" by Ernest Vincent Wright, and it's over 50,000 words long. Try writing one paragraph about your weekend without the letter "e." You can't even write "the." Good luck.

Foreshadowing in books is like a spoiler that the author puts right in front of you, but you don't notice until the second time you read it. Then you feel brilliant AND foolish at the same time. Reading is an emotional rollercoaster, even on page one.

The word "said" appears approximately 47 billion times in all the novels ever written. Okay, that number is made up. But if you've ever read a long dialogue scene, it FEELS true. "I agree," said every reader who's ever read this.

If literary characters knew they were being analyzed by middle schoolers, they'd be horrified. "The curtains were blue because the character was SAD?" The author: "I just liked blue curtains." Every English class: "No. The curtains are a metaphor."

A thesaurus is a book full of words that mean the same thing. But if you replace every word with a fancier synonym, you don't sound smarter -- you sound like a thesaurus that gained consciousness and is trying to impress someone on a first date.

In fairy tales, the big bad wolf has a 100% failure rate. Blown-down houses, eaten by grandma's rescuers, outsmarted by pigs. If the wolf had a resume, it would be embarrassing. Worst villain track record in all of literature.

A book report is a strange assignment: "Read this 200-page book, then explain it in one page." That's like watching a 2-hour movie and summarizing it in 30 seconds. "Things happened. People changed. The end was... an end." Nailed it.

Every mystery novel has that one character who "didn't seem suspicious at all" in chapter 2, which is exactly how you know they did it. If a character is described as "quiet and unassuming," start taking notes. That's the culprit. It's always the quiet ones.

Unreliable narrators are the ultimate trust exercise. They tell you the story, you believe them, and then the author reveals they were lying the whole time. It's like your best friend telling you a story and adding "just kidding, none of that happened" at the end.

The "to be continued..." at the end of a book in a series is literature's version of a cliffhanger. The next book won't come out for a year. Your favorite character is in danger. And you just have to sit there. With your feelings. And wait. Reading is not for the impatient.

If characters in books could read the title of their own book, so many problems would be solved. "The Mystery of the Missing Diamond" -- maybe check for a missing diamond? "Danger on Dead Man's Island" -- perhaps just... don't go to that island?

The glossary at the back of a textbook is basically the book admitting, "Yeah, I used some hard words. Here's what they mean." It's a textbook apologizing for its own vocabulary. Honest and a little embarrassing.

Fun Facts

Did you know? The longest novel ever written is "In Search of Lost Time" by Marcel Proust, with about 1.2 million words. Reading it at an average speed would take over 200 hours -- that's more than eight straight days of nonstop reading!

Did you know? The most translated book in the world (besides religious texts) is "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. It has been translated into over 500 languages and dialects!

Did you know? The word "novel" comes from the Italian word "novella," meaning "new." When novels first appeared in the 1700s, they were considered a new and revolutionary form of storytelling!

Did you know? Your brain processes figurative language differently than literal language. When you read "she had a heart of gold," your brain briefly considers the literal meaning (a gold heart?!) before understanding the metaphor. It takes a few extra milliseconds!

Did you know? Dr. Seuss wrote "Green Eggs and Ham" using only 50 different words -- on a bet! His publisher challenged him to write a book with 50 words or fewer, and the result became one of the best-selling children's books of all time.

Did you know? Reading fiction can actually increase your empathy. Studies show that people who read literary fiction score higher on tests measuring the ability to understand other people's emotions and perspectives!

Did you know? The ancient Library of Alexandria in Egypt may have held up to 400,000 scrolls -- the largest collection of knowledge in the ancient world. Scholars traveled from across the Mediterranean to study there!

Did you know? The average person reads about 200-250 words per minute. But speed readers can hit 700+ words per minute! The world record for speed reading with comprehension is over 4,700 words per minute.

Did you know? The word "onomatopoeia" (words that sound like what they describe, like "buzz" or "splash") comes from the Greek words for "name-making." The ancient Greeks literally named this concept "making a name that sounds like the thing."

Did you know? Audiobooks were originally created for people with visual impairments. The first audiobooks were produced by the American Foundation for the Blind in 1932 on vinyl records!

Did you know? Shakespeare's plays contain about 31,000 different words, and he is credited with inventing or first recording about 1,700 of them. Without Shakespeare, we wouldn't have words like "lonely," "generous," or "eyeball"!

Did you know? A "cliffhanger" gets its name from a real practice in serialized stories of the 1800s. Authors would literally leave their hero hanging from a cliff at the end of one installment to make sure readers bought the next one!

Did you know? When you read silently, you often still "hear" the words in your head. This is called subvocalization, and it's your brain's way of processing written language through the same pathways used for spoken language!

Did you know? The first known author in human history was Enheduanna, a priestess in ancient Sumer around 2300 BCE. She wrote poems and hymns that still survive today -- making her the world's first named author!

Did you know? A bibliophile is someone who loves books, and a "tsundoku" is a Japanese word for buying books and letting them pile up unread. If your bookshelf is full of books you haven't started yet, there's an actual word for your habit!

Keep laughing

That's **70 jokes** from ReadQuest. Made someone laugh? Try making up your own – the best jokes are the ones you tell.

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