



The Laughing Classroom: Everyone's Guide to Teaching with Humor and Play (Loomans, Diane)

By Diana Loomans, Karen Kolberg

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What distinguishes a boring classroom from a learning classroom? Laughter. This book helps move teachers from a “limiting” teaching style to a “laughing” style that inspires creativity and helps students learn faster and better. Cowritten by a former educator and the founder of a comedy improvisation company, The Laughing Classroom helps teachers — and parents — make learning fun while instilling self-esteem, solid work habits, and the joy of learning in children. Suggested activities involve silly songs, special dress days, vocabulary-building, observation, communication, social skills, and self-expression. The book gives teachers 50 ways to say “you did OK,” 15 play breaks, and humorous homework assignments to make the task fun. This edition includes a new introduction by the authors and a foreword by veteran comedian Steve Allen.

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The Laughing Classroom: Everyone's Guide to Teaching with Humor and Play (Loomans, Diane) By Diana Loomans, Karen Kolberg **Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #801225 in Books
- Brand: Brand: HJ Kramer/New World Library
- Published on: 2002-08-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .72" h x 7.96" w x 10.00" l, 1.22 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

Creating a laughing classroom offers one guarantee: positive unpredictability.

If students could choose their teachers the way the rest of us choose seminar workshop leaders, just imagine how different education would be. The classes, seminars and lectures that I've enjoyed and learned the most from were given by teachers or speakers who were personable, fun to listen to and included some activities or audience participation. On the other hand, I remember school teachers who were so boring or intimidating that I couldn't wait to be finished with their classes. If I learned anything from them it was only out of fear or necessity, and the information was forgotten as soon as the exams ended.

Authors Diane Loomans and Karen Kolberg combine their talents in *The Laughing Classroom*, which should be required reading for every teacher who sets foot in a classroom. This brilliantly illustrated book offers many ideas for bringing humor and play to all aspects and levels of teaching. The techniques, divided into Warm-ups, Laughing Lessons and Play Breaks, are well laid-out and simple enough to use immediately. There are methods for effective discipline, reframing negatives into positive, before and laughter scenarios, and more. -- *The Light Connection*, September 1994

I only wish I had a humor mentor, especially one named Professor Oops! *The Laughing Classroom* is a cure for teaching doldrums, lesson languor and student stupor. Steve Allen, in the book's foreword, explains how masters in any profession have healthy sense of humor and believe their work is joyous necessity, not merely necessary. What more can we ask as a teacher?

Reach for this book on a difficult day. I promise you that after taking the humor questionnaire, doing just one assignment from your humor homework and glancing at several of Martha Westons clever illustrations, you will be smiling. Also, you will find several ideas to try in your own classroom. as the authors state, education is too important to be taken seriously!

The Laughing Classroom is filled with hands-on techniques to try in any situation. From one-minute warm-ups (making three faces, passing the compliment, mental flossing) to a five-minute play break (tongue twisters, forgetful storytelling, 60-second mirthquake), even a novice humorist will find an activity to try. I started with the three faces warm-up. In this activity, students pair up back-to-back and practice making sad, mad and glad faces. On the count of three they turn to face each other while making one of the three faces. The object of the game is to match faces with your partner without any other communication. Our results were spontaneous and uplifting. After the activity, my students sat down, ready to concentrate afresh on their lessons.

Emboldened by my initial success, I next tried a more ambitious play break: conducting. I played a lively, non-lyrical piece of music and asked my students to silently conduct the orchestra in time to the music. I chose an allegro section from The Nutcracker Suite, and was amazed and excited to watch even my most restrained students waving their arms and hands in time with the music, using their bodies to express the emotions of the music.

Chapter 28 introduces a more instructive and serious note. In Teaching with Humor That Heals, the authors discuss discipline issues and provide helpful insights for teachers who are desperate for behavior control

advice. Problem students are often modeling terrific forms of playfulness[that are] just misdirected. Teachers who have taken our courses have commented on a decrease in behavior problems in direct proportion to the addition of humor and play in the classroom. If you need an excuse to explore humor and play, behavior control is an excellent goal to strive toward.

The Laughing Classroom makes you smile and makes you think. You will find yourself experimenting with activities just in case they work. Even if making faces does not solve your behavior problems, what harm can a smile and a laugh bring? If one minute of concentration can be gained for the one minute of laughter, the classroom and our teaching world will be a far happier place. Where laughter abounds, curious minds can flourish. -- *Association for Childhood Education International, Summer 1995*

We all learn more effectively when we are enjoying the process. Humor sets a social context within which most students feel comfortable and appreciate learning. Loomans and Kolberg have written the best available cornucopia of hands-on ideas for applying humor and easy-to-follow techniques for increasing the playfulness of teaching. There are warm-ups, laughing lessons, and play breaks.

The Laughing Classroom begins with self-inventories concerning personal uses of humor and extracts a laughing oath. There are 30 ideas for fast and fun humor, 25 ways to go the extra smile, and the ABCs of fun. Techniques include humorous ways to improve memory, enliven debates, and promote cooperation. The authors demonstrate how to use humor in discipline and ease tension with before and laughter scenarios.

The format and illustrations are a joy. *The Laughing Classroom* is an invaluable resource and probably a step toward better mental health for all teachers. -- *Intervention in School and Clinic, January 1995*

From the Publisher

To our readers: The books we publish are our contribution to an emerging world based on cooperation rather than on competition, on affirmation of the human spirit rather than on self-doubt, and on the certainty that all humanity is connected. Our goal is to touch as many lives as possible with a message of hope for a better world. - Hal and Linda Kramer, Publishers

From the Back Cover

Do you want to bring sunshine into your classroom, light up the minds of your students with laughter, and let the physiological and psychological effects open them to learning? The read *The Laughing Classroom*. The authors tell us precisely how to do this. (Milton Schwebel, Ph.D., Former Dean, Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University)

This book is absolutely wonderful! It is the first book I've come across that contains over one hundred easy and fun ways to release the natural humor and play that lie dormant in so many classrooms today. It is the perfect tool to create more fun, more joy, and more energy with less boredom, behavioral problems and burnout. I love it! (Jack Canfield, Co-author, *One Hundred Ways to Enhance Self-Concept in the Classroom*)

The Laughing Classroom entertains, educates and celebrates. It can inspire you to become a master teacher. (From the Foreword by Steve Allen)

This delightful book is a joy to read and an invaluable contribution to a teacher's repertoire. Laughter can be a magnificent aid to learning, and the teacher who knows how to bring joy into a classroom will inspire as well as instruct. (Nathaniel Branden, Ph.D., Author, *Honoring the Self* and *How to Raise Your Self-Esteem*)

After you read this book, your students will be cutting out of recess early to get back to your class. *The Laughing Classroom* is a comprehensive, fun-filled practical guide for bringing humor into your curriculum, and delight into your life. (Matt Weinstein, Co-author, *Playfair: Everybody's Guide to Noncompetitive Play*)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Celina Ziolkowski:

What do you regarding book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is make one feel bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. The doctor has to answer that question mainly because just their can do in which. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is appropriate. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this kind of The Laughing Classroom: Everyone's Guide to Teaching with Humor and Play (Loomans, Diane) to read.

Helen Samuel:

The actual book The Laughing Classroom: Everyone's Guide to Teaching with Humor and Play (Loomans, Diane) will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading a book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. In the event you try to find new book you just read, this book very acceptable to you. The book The Laughing Classroom: Everyone's Guide to Teaching with Humor and Play (Loomans, Diane) is much recommended to you you just read. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

Marilyn Leonard:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray a person, why because this The Laughing Classroom: Everyone's Guide to Teaching with Humor and Play (Loomans, Diane) reserve written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written inside good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still hesitation The Laughing Classroom: Everyone's Guide to Teaching with Humor and Play (Loomans, Diane) as good book not merely by the cover but also by content. This is one e-book that can break don't assess book by its handle, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick this specific!?! Oh come on your reading through sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

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