

Spontaneous Humor Often Fills America Classrooms

Editor's Note—This is one in a series of articles about American schools in connection with American Education Week.

WASHINGTON — Ask any teacher. Her class can produce more humor in one day than a stable of Hollywood gagwriters—and most of it is entirely spontaneous.

When you visit school during American Education Week this year, the teacher may relay some of the amusing things she hears from your children. Sometimes the humor crops up in word definitions:

—Veterinarians are animals that were in the war.

—Three communicable diseases are mumps, typhoid and TV.

—Rats carry blue bonnet plague.

—A hobby is something a person enjoys doing that is none of his business.

—"Hass'n" and "Doesn't" are contractions.

—A contradiction is something an inventor makes and people can't figure out.

—That Red Cross course helps you to save drowned people with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

—A teacher is daily exposed also to the terrifying logic of the very young—which can also have its unconscious humor.

For example:

—"I don't like my new teacher," said the first grader.

"When I went in, she said, 'Sit here for the present,'—and she never brought one!"

—The little girl complained to the teacher that she had hurt her foot during recess. "Which foot, dear?" inquired the teacher sympathetically. "I don't remember now," said the little girl, "but it was one of these two."

—The little girl was telling her teacher that the lady next door had died the day before and she asked, "Teacher, do people who die go to heaven?" "Good people do," replied the teacher. "Well," said the little girl, "They must go at night. I've watched and watched and I never saw one go."

—Jeff could not recognize the word 'scream' in his reading, despite many clues. The teacher told him to cover the 's' to see what remained. Still no response. The teacher asked, "Well, what does your mother put in her coffee?" "Toast," was the reply.

—The little girl making her first visit to the school nurses' office saw a human skeleton used in health classes and commented: "I know why he's sick—he doesn't have any skin on."

—The first graders were learning scientific facts about sound. In introducing the role of the senses, the teacher asked them why smell was important. "Because," chirped a voice. "It helps me like my breakfast before I come downstairs."

—A Honolulu teacher was trying to give her kindergartners some idea of the great size of the mainland. She said: "You could drive five days in the United States in one direction without stopping. What would happen if you did that here?" "You'd run out of gas!"

—The teacher, trying to get across concepts of arithmetic, said "If there are seven files on

your desk and you kill one, how many will remain?" and got this reply from a youngster: "One—the dead one."

The humor is spontaneous, unconscious, and sometimes embarrassing, such as the letter the sixth grader wrote to a noted entomologist who had lectured to the class on the dangers of rat infestation. Write the student: "Thanks so much for your talk. We didn't even know what a rat looked like until you came to our class."

But then there are the comments from the students that warm the cockles of the teacher's heart and make her glad all over again that she chose teaching.

Like this one from the second grader, first thing on November morning: "In my prayers last night, I asked God to keep you well, 'cause I don't want no substitutes!"

Jacoby On Bridge

NORTH (D)		14	
AK64	K85		
Q72	83		
WEST		EAST	
QJ1087	532		
973	None		
A94	J103		
KQ	J978542		
SOUTH			
3	AQJ10643		
K65	A10		
North and South vulnerable			
North	East	South	West
1	Pass	1	Pass
1	Pass	4 N.T.	Pass
1	Pass	6 W.	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead—K			

Hope For Best

By OSWALD JACOBY
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

North didn't have much of an opening bid, and after West took him off the hook with his one spade overall, North shouldn't have raised to two hearts.

South moved right to the heights. North had to respond to Blackwood and then hope for the best at six hearts.

South won the opening club lead and started to play trumps. East showed out on the first lead, and South stopped for a moment to determine the significance of West's overall and of East's failure to raise. His conclusion was that West must have the ace of diamonds in addition to the king-queen of clubs and most of the spades. South ran off five trumps. His discards from dummy were a diamond and a club. East just discarded clubs. West let a spade and a diamond go.

Now South was sure that West had discarded down to ace and a small diamond. He cashed dummy's two spades to discard his ten of clubs, ruffed a club, led a low diamond to dummy's queen, returned a diamond and played low. West had to play his ace and South's king of diamonds and last trump accounted for the remaining two tricks.

East thought that West could have discarded more intelligently, but actually South could make the hand against any defense, once the club was opened.

To get your copy of "Win at Bridge," just send your name, address, and 50 cents to: Oswald Jacoby Reader Service, care this newspaper, P.O. Box 489, Dept. A, Radio City Station, New York 19, N.Y.

Q—The bidding has been:

South	West	North	East
1	Pass	1	Pass
2	Pass	4	Pass

You South, hold:
AK2 VA2 KJ76 AQ1088
What do you do?
A—Bid four spades. You plan to get to six or seven, but do not use Blackwood because you do not want to take full control.

TODAY'S QUESTION
Your partner bids five diamonds. What do you do?
Answer Tomorrow

Idaho Counties Eye Secession

BOISE (UPI)—Five Lewiston Idaho residents proposed today that Idaho's 10 northern counties secede from the state and group themselves into the nation's 51st state.

Their plan was disclosed when they filed articles of incorporation with Secretary of State Arnold Williams for "North Idaho, Inc.," a non-profit organization.

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