**Humor**

**Humor is the affectionate communication of insight. *(Leo Rosten, in The Return of H\*Y\*M\*A\*N\*K\*A\*P\*L\*A\*N)***

**Humor is an affirmation of dignity, a declaration of man’s superiority to all that befalls him. *(Romain Gary, in Promise at Dawn)***

**Humorists always sit at the children's table. *(Woody Allen)***

**Good humor may be said to be one of the very best articles of dress one can wear in society. (William Makepeace Thackeray)**

**Although the Bible is notably lacking in jokes and belly laughs, it does contain the phrase "Ha, ha!" (Job 39:25). *(Paul Stirling Hagerman, in It's a Weird World, p. 28)***

**Though a humorist may bomb occasionally, it is still better to exchange humorists than bombs. And . . . you can't fight when you're laughing. *(Jim Boren)***

**Humor is a spontaneous, wonderful bit of an outburst that just comes. It’s unbridled, it’s unplanned, it’s full of surprises. (Erma Bombeck)**

**Pain plus time equals humor. *(Lenny Bruce)***

**Someone who makes you laugh is a comedian. Someone who makes you think and then laugh is a humorist. (George Burns)**

**Using humor is like changing a diaper. It's not a permanent solution, but it makes everybody feel better. *(Jeanne Robertson)***

**Humor can get in under the door while seriousness is still fumbling at the handle. (G. K. Chesterton)**

**One nice thing about telling a clean joke is there’s a good chance that no one has heard it before. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Most people will confess to treason, murder, arson, wearing false teeth or even a wig. But how many will own up to a lack of humor? *(Frank Moore Colby, in Catholic Digest)***

**Through humor, you can soften some of the worst blows that life delivers. And once you find laughter, no matter how painful your situation might be, you can survive it. *(Bill Cosby)***

**One of the best ways of unleashing creativity was demonstrated in an Israel high school. Before they were given a standard creativity test, 141 tenth-graders were treated to a recording of a popular comedian. Those who heard it did significantly better than the control group, which was not so entertained. Humor can show us the ambiguity of situations, revealing a second and often startling answer. (Roger von Oech)**

**"People ask me, 'Were you funny as a child?' Well, no, I was an accountant." (Ellen DeGeneres, comedian, actress, and television host)**

**Walt Disney refused to release a film until it had the kind of quality he thought would last. In 1938, after six months' work on Pinocchio, Walt suddenly suspended production: the film just didn't have heart. “I don't think anything without heart is good or will last,” he said. “To me, humor involves both laughter and tears.” (John Culhane, in Reader's Digest)**

**A difference of taste in jokes is a great strain upon the affections. (George Eliot)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*When I was four years old, my father developed lung cancer. He was in and out of the hospital for nine years. After eight operations on his back, liver and gall bladder, he made his transition. It was not a happy childhood for me. It took a long time to heal feelings of anger, sadness and perceived rejection. Initially, I became funny to hide my deeper feelings of pain. As I became more aware, I realized that the essence of humor brings us closer to who we are, to simplicity, to fun, to inclusion of all, to optimism, and to our ability to lift our spirits at any moment. *(Terry Braverman, in New Thought magazine)***

**It always hurts a bit when you strike your funny bone. That's the essence of humor. (Jim Fiebig, United Feature Syndicate)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*The people who fear humor, and they are many, are suspicious of its power to present things in unexpected lights, to question received opinions, and to support unforeseen possibilities. (Robertson Davies)**

**"Humor has a tremendous place in a sordid world," says Theodor S. Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. "It's more than just a matter of laughing. If you can see things out of whack, then you can see how things can be in whack." (Portland Oregonian)**

**There’s nothing like a gleam of humor to reassure you that a fellow human being is ticking inside a strange face. (Eva Hoffman, in Exit into History)**

**After God created the world, he made man and woman. Then, to keep the whole thing from collapsing, he invented humor. *(Guillermo Mordillo, in Stuttgarter Zeitung, Germany/)***

**Warning: Humor may be hazardous to your illness. (The PassTime Paper)**

**Lower end of the humerus makes up part of the elbow and, because of that, some doctor decided to call it the "funny bone." (Humerus -- humorous, get it?) Some of those doctors are really cut-ups. (Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 19)**

**Wit surprises, humor illuminates. (Eli Schleifer)**

**Jewish humor has in some ways come to replace the standard sacred texts as a touchstone for the entire Jewish community. Not all Jews can read and understand a page of the Talmud, but even the most assimilated tend to have a special affection for Jewish jokes. (William Novak)**

**The kind of humor I like is the thing that makes me laugh for five seconds and think for ten minutes. (William Davis)**

**Humor is laughing at what you haven’t got when you ought to have it. (Langston Hughes)**

**Anything that can be made funny must have at its heart some tragic implications. (Dr. Karl Menninger, psychiatrist)**

**In Native American circles humor is commonly used as a corrective or a way of deflecting hostility into a lesson. *(Joseph Bruchac)***

**Humor allows us to step out of the moment, look at it and sum it up with no great reverence. It is a gift nature gives the mature intellect. If a Presidential candidate is lacking in humor, don't vote for him. He lacks the Presidential sensibility, and he'll never succeed with Congress or rally the will of the people. (Peggy Noonan, in What I Saw at the Revolution)**

**Every joke is a tiny revolution. (George Orwell)**

**I’m not offended by dumb blonde jokes because I know that I’m not dumb. I also know I’m not blonde. *(Dolly Parton, musician and actress)***

**Personals ad in the New York City "Village Voice": "I am 32, 6 feet tall, handsome, well-built, athletic, intelligent, absolutely amazing and completely perfect in every way. I'd like to meet a woman who'll humor me when I get like this." (Reader's Digest)**

**Pretending to be humorous is easy and a great many people are doing it. (Florence King, columnist)**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*A pun is the lowest form of humor – if you didn’t think of it first. *(Oscar Levant, entertainer)***

**A pun is the lowest form of humor, unless you thought of it yourself. *(Doug Larson, columnist)***

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**There's no trick to being a humorist when you have the whole government working for you. I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts. *(Will Rogers)***

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**The love of truth lies at the root of much humor. *(Robertson Davies, in Our Living Tradition)***

**“It's just a comic strip,” Charles Schulz says. “Peanuts “fans realize he's wrong. The Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, Lucy and Schroeder that we know and love are real. They are relatives, and we are their family. Says Schulz, “I'm amazed at people who want nice things to happen and are upset because Lucy pulls the football away all the time. Humor comes from tragedy, unrequited love, losing. I'm always astounded at the way mankind has survived terrible things and still is able to laugh.” As cartoonist Bill Mauldin puts it, Schulz's message is: “Love thy neighbor even when it hurts.” (David Holmstrom, in The Christian Science Monitor)**

**The science of humor: Comedians are funnier than the rest of us because they switch to a different part of their brains when they're coming up with jokes, reports MedicalDaily.com. A team at the University of Southern California asked a group of professional and amateur comedians to come up with two captions -- one funny, the other ordinary -- for a New Yorker cartoon. They performed brain scans on the comedians as they performed this written task, and later had an outside panel rate each caption for humor. The researchers found that the experienced comedians had increased activity in their temporal lobe, a part of the brain involved with language, processing abstract information, and connecting feelings to events or objects. Those who weren't as funny had more activity in their medial prefrontal cortex, the brain region responsible for complex planning and decision making. "The more experience you have doing comedy," explains study leader Ori Amir, "the more you rely on your spontaneous associations." (The Week magazine, March 17, 2017)**

**When a thing is funny, search for a hidden truth. (George Bernard Shaw)**

**Humor is a good way to tamp down the level of nastiness and violence in the world. We really ought to take humor more seriously. (Father Jeffrey Keefe)**

**Humor is emotional chaos remembered in tranquility. (James Thurber, writer)**

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**The secret source of humor itself is not joy but sorrow. (Mark Twain)**

**Humor is the good-natured side of a truth. *(Mark Twain)***

**Humor is the great thing, the saving thing. The minute it crops up, all our irritations and resentments slip away, and a sunny spirit takes their place. (Mark Twain)**

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**Humor is what happens when we're told the truth quicker and more directly than we're used to. (George Saunders, author)**

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