

# Question and Answer Book

Emerald/Lime, Level 25, 630L

**Text Type:** Factual Response

**Summary:** These pages discuss comedy, from its beginning in early Greek plays to modern-day classics, and what it means to be funny.

**Themes/Ideas:** learn about the history of comedy; understand the characteristics of comedies

**Text Features:** questions, answers, photos

## Vocabulary:

- **comedy:** a work meant to make people laugh
- **comedy classic:** an old example of comedy that is still enjoyed by many people today
- **recording:** music, a speech or a play that is stored on a computer, DVD or CD, to be played back later
- **surprise:** something unexpected
- **twist:** a change from what is expected

# What's So Funny?



**Focus Question:** What is a comedy and what makes it funny?

## PREPARE & READ

- Discuss what makes a comedy.
- Discuss how comedy came to be what it is today.
- Ask students to read the card.

## READ CLOSELY

### Sequence

What is the first question and answer in this text? How does this question and answer pair help introduce the information that follows in the rest of the text?

1 2

### Vocabulary/Text Feature

What is a comedy? Given the author's definition of comedy, why do you think he or she chose the title "What's So Funny?" 3

... A comedy is a movie, show, or play that is supposed to make people laugh. Based on this definition, I think the author chose the title because comedies are meant to be funny. The phrase "What's so funny?" is a question often asked by observers when someone is laughing at something unknown. So the author is also using that common phrase to start the reader thinking about comedy and how it makes us feel.

### Author's Language Choices

Read the answer to the first question. What pronoun does the author use here? How does that choice affect you as the reader? 1 2

... The author uses the pronoun "us" to make a shared connection between people who like funny jokes and plays. It makes me think about the things I find funny, and reminds me that other people might find them funny as well.

### Key Ideas and Details

How did comedies come to be? What questions and answers tell about the history of comedy and how the old traditions continue today? Why are these important details? 4

### Vocabulary

What does the phrase comedy classic mean? Why does the author suggest that readers watch a comedy classic? 5

### Photos and Text

Who were the Marx Brothers? Why do you think the author chose to include a photo of them in this excerpt? Why did the author include the quotes from Groucho, one of the Marx Brothers? What does it tell you about their style of comedy? 6 7