

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**AUTHOR'S STYLE ➔ HUMOR**

## With a Little Help From My Friends

Firoozeh Dumas

**Humor** is writing intended to make people laugh. Writers often use **figurative language** to make their work funny. In “With a Little Help From My Friends,” the author uses three types of figurative language to add humor to her story: **metaphor**, or comparing by describing one thing as another; **simile**, or using *like* or *as* to compare two unlike items; and **hyperbole**, or exaggerations and outrageous overstatements. To recognize hyperbole, look for details in these sentences that seem too silly or outrageous to be true.

**A. DIRECTIONS:** Choose the best answer to each question.

1. What is the purpose of humorous writing?  
 a. to persuade       c. to inform  
 b. to entertain       d. to frighten
2. A humorous narrator could be described as which of the following?  
 a. a storyteller       c. a playwright  
 b. a reporter       d. a poet
3. Which of the following sentences from the text are examples of a simile? Mark the similes with an *S*.  
 a. I also knew that I lived on the continent of Asia.  
 b. Perhaps it's like driving a Yugo and realizing that the eighteen-wheeler can't see you.  
 c. They reacted as if I had told them that there really was a person in the Mickey Mouse costume.  
 d. My family and I wondered why Americans had such a mistaken image of Iran.

**B. DIRECTIONS:** Identify which sentences from “With a Little Help From My Friends” are humorous. Write *H* next to the items that are meant to be funny, and *NH* next to the items that are not meant to be humorous.

1.  Another neighbor, a kindly old lady who taught me how to take care of indoor plants, asked whether we had many cats back home.
2.  My life became one long-running *Oprah* show, minus the free luxury accommodations in Chicago, and Oprah.
3.  “Now, I won't bore you with religion,” he said, “but let me tell you about the petroleum industry.”
4.  Questions were often followed by suggestions of places to visit in California.