

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.

- What is the purpose of humorous writing?  
☐ a. to persuade                      ☐ c. to inform  
☐ b. to entertain                      ☐ d. to frighten
- A humorous narrator could be described as which of the following?  
☐ a. a storyteller                      ☐ c. a playwright  
☐ b. a reporter                      ☐ d. a poet
- 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.

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