

Name:

Date:

AUTHOR'S STYLE ▶ HUMOR

With a Little Help From My Friends

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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.