

Humorous Writing - Key Features

www.aoifesnotes.com

Exaggeration

- * The writer may deliberately exaggerate the facts of a story for comic effect.
- * Example from the 2010 Reading: 'My appearance started to inspire a certain mild alarm in adults who caught sight of me for the first time and to elicit sympathetic and vaguely disappointed looks from my parents. My head grew, quite quickly, to an unfeasibly large size.'

*Dave Barry's *Only Travel Guide You'll Ever Need*

- * “Often there will be local fairs and festivals where the kids can ride on the Whirl-’n’-Puke while Mom and Dad enjoy tasty local cuisine such as French fried potatoes, fried chicken, fried onion rings, fried dough, and fried frying oil fried with fried sugar.”



Comparisons - Metaphors and Similes

- * In Home Before Night, the author Hugh Leonard describes an overweight relation of whom he is not fond as arriving home from a shopping trip 'skipping like a carefree young hippo'.
- * The **unexpected** is a feature of comic writing and it can be used to good effect when choosing interesting similes and metaphors.



Self-deprecation

- * The author may be self-deprecating, which means speaking about oneself in a modest or critical manner, usually for comic effect. Again, the 2010 Reading Comprehension is a good example of this.



2010 Reading Extract

* ‘... from the age of five as a result of this unusual development, I started to look unnervingly like the kid on the cover of Mad magazine. Along with the head came the teeth, or specifically my two big front teeth.’

