

20 Story Jokes: Kids Can Tell

Taken from 52 Story Jokes: Anyone Can Tell & 52 Animal Jokes: Anyone Can Tell

Curated & adapted

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Cowboy's Book

A young cowboy was looking forward to finishing the cattle drive. When he finally got to his tiny room in the Amarillo Hotel, he discovered that he had lost his book. Worse yet, he only had two chapters left to finish.

“Now I’ll never know how it turns out,” he said. Books were hard to come by, so he was mighty upset.

He planned to spend a week in the city. He put up flyers asking any finder to return the book to him at the Amarillo Hotel. The other cowboys teased him, but he didn’t mind, he really wanted that book.

On his last morning in town he sat in his room re-reading the Amarillo News and the Panhandle Weekly. Suddenly he heard a scratch at the door. He opened it up and to his surprise there was a dog standing in the hall with something in its mouth.

“Hey boy, what cha’ got there?” said the cowboy.

The dog dropped a book and to the cowboy’s amazement it was the one he’d lost! He looked to the sky and yelled, “It’s a miracle!”

The dog cocked its head to one side and said, “Not really, your name was just inside the cover.”

Suggestions:

This joke relies on the listener’s surprise of a dog talking (as do most of the jokes in this section). Overall, it’s probably best not to tell your audience it is a talking dog joke before telling it. However, it also can be helped by giving some detail about cowboy life and the young wrangler. There can be a bit of misdirection in playing on the stereotype of cowboys not being known as readers.

Don't Tell the Boss

A salesperson was working late at the office, trying to catch up on paperwork in his cubicle.

There was not a soul in sight. Suddenly, the man saw a big dog come into the room pushing a trash can on wheels. To his amazement, the dog began routinely emptying wastebaskets and dusting off desks.

At first the salesperson thought he might be going crazy. Too many long hours? he thought, rubbing his eyes. He gawked at the animal while it efficiently moved from one desk to the next using its tail as a feather duster.

Finally, the dog looked up and said, "I know it might seem weird to you buddy but I'm just doing my job."

"Wow, you talk too!" exclaimed the man. "I can't believe it! Does the boss know you can talk? You could be invaluable to this business!"

"No, no, the boss doesn't know and please don't tell her," begged the dog.

"Why not?"

"Well, if the boss finds out I can talk, she'll make me answer the phones too!"

Suggestions:

The mood should be like two co-workers just meeting each other. This can be any kind of office where they have cubicles and a central phone system. As usual, make it a place you can relate to and can remember easily.

Movie Hound

A woman went to see the latest movie blockbuster at her local theater. When she got there, the place was packed. She bought her usual popcorn and soda and made her way into the crowded auditorium.

There was an empty seat in the middle, near the back, and the woman made her way to it, excusing herself as she eased by the people already sitting in the row. She finally plopped down in the seat. As she was getting settled with her popcorn, she was surprised to notice a dog sitting in the seat beside her. The dog wasn't wearing a service vest and didn't seem to belong to any of the people sitting around it. Thinking it was a stray that had just wandered into the theater she whispered, "Hey Rover, are you here all by yourself?" not expecting an answer.

"Yes, I am," said the dog, in a matter of fact way.

The woman was amazed. A talking dog! She wasn't sure what to say next but finally asked,

"What are you doing at the movies?"

The dog looked her in the eye and said, "Well, I liked the book."

Suggestions:

You can have fun personalizing this by setting it in a local theater you and your audience know. You can also describe the dog more specifically. All that is just nice misdirection for the final line.

The Audition

A woman brought her dog to audition for a local cable channel's talent show.

"What kind of tricks can your dog do?" the producer asked.

"My dog can talk! It speaks English!" she said.

"Let's hear it," said the producer.

The woman asked the dog, "What's on top of a house?"

"Roof!" the dog replied.

"What does sandpaper feel like?"

"Rough!" the dog answered.

The producer rolled his eyes. "Come on! That's nothing special. All dogs say that."

"No wait, how about this?" the woman begged. "Why don't you ask him a question?"

"All right," said the producer. "Who, in your opinion, was the greatest baseball player of all time?"

"Ruth!" barked the dog.

"Okay, that's enough, I'm not interested!" the producer said and ushered them out of his office.

As they walked through the waiting room, the dog looked up at the woman and said, "Maybe I should have said DiMaggio?"

Suggestions:

Practice saying "roof" and "rough" in a bark, so they sound alike. The fun comes from first hearing the dog sound like a dog, as if its owner is the one who is deluded. You can choose any legendary baseball player at the end. Just make sure the player is famous enough, like Willie Mays or Hank Aaron, that even non-baseball fans will recognize him.

Duck Food

A duck walked into an ice cream shop and asked, "Got any duck food?"

The server replied, "No, I'm sorry, we only serve ice cream."

The next day the duck returned to the same ice cream shop and asked, "Got any duck food?"

"No, I told you yesterday, we only have ice cream, this is an ice cream shop."

The next day the duck walked into the same shop and asked, "Got any duck food?"

The server was fed up. "NO! What's the matter with you? I told you 'No' twice already. If you ask me one more time, I'll nail your webbed feet to the floor!"

The next day the server was amazed to see the duck waddling back into the shop. "GET OUT OF HERE!" he yelled.

"Got any nails?" the duck asked.

"Nails? Of course not! This is an ice-cream shop, not a hardware store!"

"Good. Got any duck food?"

Suggestions:

You can have fun with the voice of the duck. Just saying "Quack" every now and then will make it distinct. You can set this joke in any business, as long as they don't stock nails!

Smart Parrot

A man went to a pet shop to buy a parrot. The clerk led him over to a section with several parrots in different cages.

"I like the yellow one, how much is it?" the man asked.

"Two thousand dollars," the clerk said.

The man was shocked, "Why is it so expensive?"

"It's a really special parrot, it can type really fast."

"Well, what about the green one?" the man asked.

"That one costs five thousand dollars. It can type, answer phones, and take notes."

"Good grief! how about the red one?"

"That one's twenty-five grand."

"Twenty-five thousand dollars!?" the man said, "what does that bird do?"

"I don't know," said the clerk, "But the other two call it boss."

Suggestions:

You can change the work skills of the first two parrots to fit your audience. Just be sure to make the second a little more skilled than the first.

Trip to the Zoo

A police officer was directing traffic in a work zone. A man driving a pick-up went past. The police officer was astounded to see the back of the pick-up was full of penguins. The officer blew her whistle, pulled the man over, and walked up to the driver's window.

"Is there a problem officer?" the man asked.

"Yes, there's a problem! You can't just drive around with penguins in the back of your truck. You need to take those penguins to the zoo. Immediately!"

The man replied, "Okay officer, right away."

The man pulled out, turned around, and drove off in the direction of the zoo.

The next day, the officer was directing traffic at the same job site. The guy in the pick-up drove by and the back of his truck was still full of penguins. But this time, all the penguins were wearing sunglasses.

The officer blew her whistle, pulled the man over, and walked to the driver's side window. "Why do you still have those penguins? I told you yesterday you needed to take them to the zoo!"

"Oh, I did, officer!" the man replied. "They loved it! Today, I'm taking them to the beach."

Suggestions:

You can set this story in a location your audience will recognize, such as a local construction site or sight-seeing location.

Beware of Dog

A woman was traveling on business and stopped at a store in a small rural town for provisions. As she walked into the store, she saw a big sign on the front door;

DANGER!

BEWARE OF DOG!

She walked in carefully, looked around, and noticed a big old hound dog asleep on the floor next to the cash register. The dog looked as harmless as could be. She picked out a sandwich, grabbed a bag of carrots, and went to check out.

She asked the cashier, “Is that the dog folks are supposed to beware of?”

“Yep, that’s him,” he replied.

She couldn’t help but laugh. “That old hound certainly doesn’t look dangerous to me. Why in the world would you post that sign?”

“Because,” the cashier replied, “before I posted that sign, people kept tripping over him.”

Suggestions:

This is not a complicated story. Keep this story short and sweet for maximum comic effect. The sign is accurate even though it isn’t for the reason we assume. That gives the story some extra charm.

Talking Frog

A girl was playing in her backyard when a frog hopped up and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a handsome prince."

"Wow!" the girl said. She reached down and let the frog hop onto her palm. Then, she gently put it in her coat pocket and started walking toward the house.

"Hey, kid! Didn't you hear me? If you kiss me, I'll turn into a handsome prince! Think how jealous all your friends will be!" The girl patted her pocket and kept walking.

"Listen, I mean it! Just give me a kiss and when I turn into a handsome prince, when you grow up, I'll ask you to marry me."

The girl patted her pocket again and kept walking.

The frog was desperate. "Kid, what gives? I've told you I'm a handsome prince. We could get married and you'd be rich. Why won't you kiss me?"

The girl said, "When I grow up, I want to be a doctor, and I may not ever even GET married. But having a talking frog for a pet? My brother is going to be SO jealous!"

Suggestions:

This joke is a great chance to try out a frog voice. Make your own voice raspy or insert a few "ribbit ribbits" any time the frog talks.

Batty

A vampire bat came flapping in from the night, his face covered in fresh blood. He hung himself from the ceiling of the cave to get some sleep.

Soon, the other bats smelled the blood and began annoying him about where he got all.

“Where did it come from? Show us! Show us!”

“Go away, let me get some sleep. I’ve had a long night,” the bat said.

His fellow bats would not stop their badgering, “Oh, come on! We want to know where you got that blood.”

“Okay, follow me,” he said and flew out of the cave with hundreds of bats behind him. Down through the valley they flew, across a river, and into a forest. Finally, he slowed down and all the other bats excitedly milled around him.

“You see that tree over there?” he asked.

“Yeah, yeah!” said the other bats.

“Good,” said the bat, “because I sure didn’t!”

Suggestions:

Have fun making the group of bats irritating and the main bat put-upon. Keep a fast pace while they are flying before slowing the tempo at the end.

Manners

A father took his young daughter out to eat at a fancy restaurant. She was a talkative little girl, and had a million questions about the menu, the servers, the table settings, and the other diners.

When their first course arrived, the father said, “Honey, let’s try having a little quiet time as we eat so we can enjoy this delicious food.” He picked up his spoon.

“Dad... are bugs good to eat?” the little girl said.

“Honey, I asked for quiet time. And that is not a good subject to talk about at a meal, anyway. Please be quiet and let’s enjoy our soup.”

“Okay Daddy,” the little girl said. She settled down to eat her soup in silence. After they were finished, the server came and removed the bowls.

“Now let’s have a little conversation until our next course arrives. What did you want to ask me, sweetheart?”

“Oh, nothing, Daddy.” the little girl said. “There was a big bug in your soup, but it’s gone now.”

Suggestions:

To make this joke more elaborate you can describe the restaurant and its decor. You can also articulate the little girl’s questions, such as “Why do I have two forks, Daddy? Daddy, why is that cart full of desserts?” The adult and child can be parent and child, grandparent and grandchild, or any other familial relation.

Mom Knows Best

A mother mouse and her children went for a walk. They turned a corner and saw a great big cat.

The cat hissed and got ready to pounce. The children were scared! They ran behind their mother and hid. The mother mouse was scared, too, but she knew she had to protect her children.

As the cat was about to spring, the mother mouse stood up on her hind legs, opened her mouth, and said, "BARK!"

The cat froze.

"Help me, children," whispered the mother mouse. Her children got up on their hind legs, opened their little mouths and said, "Bark, Bark, Bark, BARK!"

The great big cat was scared! It ran away.

All the mice breathed a sigh of relief.

"See, children," the mother mouse said, "What do I always tell you? It's good to know a second language."

Suggestions:

This simple story works well without a lot of extra detail. You can have fun making the sounds of the cat hissing, and of course the mice barking. Invite the audience to bark along if the mood is right.

Giving Thanks

Seven-year-old Molly was asked to say the blessing when the family sat down together for their Thanksgiving dinner.

“Just tell God what you are thankful for, honey,” her mother said, not wanting her daughter to feel too much pressure.

As family members bowed their heads, Molly started off, thanking God for Mommy, Daddy, brothers, sister, Grandma, and all her aunts and uncles.

Then she began to thank God for the food. She gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the candied yams, even the cranberry sauce. Then Molly paused, and everyone waited ... and waited.

After a long silence, Molly looked up at her mother and asked, "If I thank God for the Brussels sprouts, won't he know I'm lying?"

Suggestions:

This story could be set at any holiday or special occasion. Add to and adapt the list of relatives and dishes on the table to fit the occasion you choose. Taking on the voice of the young girl can add to the fun.

Tex

A businessman from Cincinnati was on a working trip to Omaha. After a full day of meetings, he went in the hotel restaurant to relax. He sat at the counter, watched the baseball game, and enjoyed a snack.

A big man in a huge Stetson hat, cowboy boots and leather vest came in and sat down next to him. He was a jolly fellow filled with good humor.

The businessman said, “My name’s Pete, what’s yours?”

“My name’s Tex.”

“Oh, are you from Texas?”

“No sir, I’m from Louisiana.”

“Louisiana? Why do they call you Tex?”

“Well, I wouldn’t want ‘em to call me Louise, now would I?”

Suggestions:

Making the voices different can make this story more effective. This is not too difficult with these characters; it can just be a matter of volume, Tex is loud.

It Hurts Everywhere

A doctor comes into the examination room and finds her patient sitting on the end of the exam table looking distressed.

“Help me, doctor, I don’t know what’s wrong, it hurts everywhere!”

The doctor has been trained to let the patient take the lead, so she asked the patient to show her where his pain was.

The man touched his finger to his forehead and said, “Ow! It hurts here.”

He touched his chest, and his arm, “Ow, and it hurts here, and here!”

He went on, touching his hip, thigh, knee and foot, each time saying “Ow! It hurts here, and here, and here! Ow, ow, OW!”

“Doc, it hurts EVERYWHERE...am I dying?”

The doctor said, “I have good news — I can relieve all of your pain by treating you for one minor problem.”

“Doctor, that would be such a relief! What’s the problem?”

“Your finger is broken.”

Suggestions:

Keep this story quick. Amp up the distress of the patient, in a funny way. The more dramatic the distress of the patient, the funnier the matter of fact ending will be.

Beethoven's Grave

Two music students went to Vienna during summer break. They visited the place where Mozart had written *The Marriage of Figaro*. They went to wonderful performances. However, they were most excited about visiting the graves of Strauss, Brahms, Schubert, and of course, Ludwig van Beethoven.

With reverence the students approached the grave of their musical hero, Beethoven. When they got close, they heard strange music coming from under the gravestone which they recognized as Beethoven's Seventh Symphony, backwards.

The next day they returned and again music came from the grave. It was Beethoven's Sixth Symphony being played backwards.

On the third day crowds had gathered to hear the mysterious music. The students could barely hear the tune from where they stood, but there was no doubt, it was Beethoven's Fifth Symphony being played backwards.

About that time a groundskeeper came walking by looking very blasé. The students asked, "You work here, what do you think is happening?"

The man frowned and said, "Oh, that's just Beethoven decomposing."

Suggestions:

The details can be changed to fit with your own favorite musician, but Beethoven is widely known. More details about the people hearing the music (they don't have to be students), Vienna, or the cemetery can be brought out too.

Bump, Bump, Bump

A young man was coming home alone late at night from a Halloween party when he decided to take a shortcut through a cemetery. He was halfway across when he saw something out of the corner of his eye. It looked like an open grave. Then he heard a loud boom. He glanced back and thought he saw a casket hopping out of the memorial pit. "This is crazy!" he thought.

"Bump, bump, bump," he heard behind him. Afraid to look, he walked faster. He turned left out of the cemetery. "Two blocks to go," he thought.

The sound persisted, "Bump, bump, bump." The coffin was banging its way down the sidewalk behind him. He sped up to a jog and ran to the next corner. It was gaining on him.

"Bump, bump, bump." He sprinted to his house and ran up the walkway, unlocked the door, and relocked it behind him. "I made it."

Then came a thud, "BUMP, BUMP, BUMP!" He ran up the stairs as the casket burst into the house.

"BUMP, BUMP, BUMP!"

At the top of the stairs he ran into the bathroom thinking, "What to do? What to do?"

"BUMP, BUMP, BUMP!"

He looked for a weapon of any kind. "Nothing," he thought, "Not even a plunger!" Desperate, he looked in the medicine cabinet.

"BUMP, BUMP, BUMP!"

With a loud "BANG," the casket broke down the door.

The man yelled, reaching for something, anything. He grabbed the first bottle he touched. He looked, "Cough drops?" He heaved the bottle at the coffin, and the coffin...stopped!

Suggestions:

This little story is helped if you can fake a cough into your arm at the beginning and even in the middle if you remember. It also is helpful if the pace speeds up as you tell. This adds urgency. Then slow down for the end (Coffin= Coughin').

Fossil Museum

An elderly guide was leading a school group on a tour of the natural history museum, beginning with the fossil collection.

She gathered the children around the main display case and said, “Here is our oldest fossil — it is four million, sixty-seven years old!”

As the children crowded in for a look, the teacher accompanying them asked “What techniques are used to identify the age so precisely?”

“Just simple addition,” the tour guide said. “They told me it was four million years old when I started working here sixty-seven years ago!”

Suggestions:

This story doesn't take much embellishment. You can have some fun verbalizing the reactions of the children “Ooooh! Ahhhh!” to the museum guard's pronouncements. It can also be fun to give the museum guard a know-it-all voice.

Horse Sense

Two farmers rode the train into the city to buy new work horses. They each bought a three-year-old horse about the same height and weight. They put them in the stock car of the train and realized they may have a problem telling the horses apart.

“I know, I’ll trim just a bit off the mane on my horse,” said the first farmer. He did that and walked out.

“That’s a good idea, I’ll do that too,” said the other man and he did.

At the next stop they went back to the stable car to check them again. Of course, they couldn’t tell them apart. “I’ll tell you what, I’ll just trim a bit off the tail.” The first farmer did that and walked out.

“Good idea, I’ll do the same,” said the other man and he did.

At the next stop, they couldn’t tell them apart again. “I’ve got a pen, I’ll put a small dot behind the ear of my horse.” He did that and walked out.

“Great idea, I’ll do that too,” said the other farmer and he did.

When they arrived home, they were stumped. They still couldn’t tell the horses apart. They scratched their heads and rubbed their chins. Then the first farmer said to the second, “I don’t know, I’ll tell you what, you take the white one and I’ll take the brown one.”

Suggestions:

You could tell this story about two other almost identical items if you wanted. The key is to make it clear the second person is always copying the first. The last line also needs to be clean.

Veterinarian Diagnosis

A veterinarian had been feeling sick for a little while. Unable to shake his illness he finally went to see his doctor.

The doctor examined him and asked him all the usual questions. “How long have you been feeling ill? Did it start in your nose or chest? Do you have a history of feeling this way?”

After what seemed like an eternity of questions, the veterinarian got upset. “Listen Doc, I don’t need to ask all these questions when I see a patient. I examine the animal and make a diagnosis. I know just by looking at them what’s wrong. Why can’t you do that?”

The doctor nodded. She looked the vet up and down then began writing out a prescription. When she was finished, she handed it to the vet.

“Was that so hard?” he said.

“No, take that for a week. But, if it doesn’t work, I’m afraid we’ll have to put you down.”

Suggestions:

The veterinarian should obviously be an impatient person. Make him annoying without making him inhuman. This can be played out a lot longer with a myriad of questions being asked. You’ll have to judge your audience on how long this little story should go on.