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# Humor in Children's Picture Books

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Morgan A. Johnson. *Humor in Children's Picture Books*. A Master's Paper for the M.S. in L.S. Degree. November, 2010. 48 pages. Advisor: Brian Strain.

This study examines whether the humor forms found in children's picture books published within the last five years meet the cognitive needs of the preschool-age child. A review of the literature on cognitive development and the stages of humor development will shed light on what types of humor are understood and appreciated by three to seven year olds from a developmental perspective. A sample of humorous picture books was selected for analysis and coded with the types of humor present in each. The results reveal that pictures books are using developmentally appropriate types of humor, although types of humor relevant for younger or older stages of development are also found in the samples.

**Headings**

Humor in literature

Humor in children

Children - Books and Reading - United States

Children's literature - History and Criticism

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**Abstract**

This study examines whether the humor forms found in children's picture books published within the last five years meet the cognitive needs of the preschool-age child. A review of the literature on cognitive development and the stages of humor development will shed light on what types of humor are understood and appreciated by three to seven year olds from a developmental perspective. A sample of humorous picture books was selected for analysis and coded with the types of humor present in each. The results reveal that pictures books are using developmentally appropriate types of humor, although types of humor relevant for younger or older stages of development are also found in the samples.

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November 2010

## Subject

Content analysis  
Children's literature--Evaluation  
Children's literature--Selection  
Reading interests

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## Resource type

Masters Paper

## Rights statement

In Copyright

## Advisor

Sturm, Brian

## Degree granting institution

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## Language

English

## Extent

48

## Access

Open access

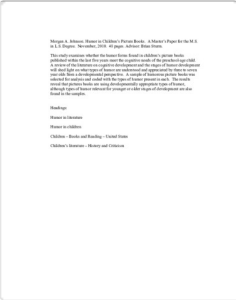
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'Corduroy' is a classic children's picture book that was first published in 1968. It tells the story of Corduroy, who is a teddy bear on a shelf in a departmental store. One day, the bear catches the attention of a young girl. Picture books help young readers as they make a tale enjoyable and understandable with the use of illustrations and cartoons. The drawings warrant a second reading to enjoy their various nuances. Maintaining a collection of picture books for your child is the best way to get them interested in books and develop the reading habit. Which picture book does your child enjoy? Do tell us in the comments section below. Hotpicks. 24 books based on 8 votes: Creepy Carrots! by Aaron Reynolds, All My Friends Are Dead by Avery Monsen, All My Friends Are Still Dead by Avery Monsen, Mon... A book's total score is based on multiple factors, including the number of people who have voted for it and how highly those voters rated the book. All Votes Add Books To This List: 1. Creepy Carrots! by Aaron Reynolds, 4.99 average rating, 10,824 ratings, score: 894, and 2 people

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