

# Laughter Rx

It Doesn't Taste Funny

It Just Reads That Way



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## School Bored

by Kris Shearer

*I have to laugh because every time I tell people I'm an English teacher, they groan and say things like. "English teacher?! Oh gee, don't you get bored?"*

Bored? BORED?! Gracious no. I only wish I had time to get bored. I get annoyed, fed up, irritated, heart-broken, exhausted, but never bored. And, sometimes, I get amused. See, one of the advantages of being an English teacher is that I get to peek into the lives of young people by reading their essays, stories, and journals. They are often filled with unintended hilarities through misspellings and wrong word choices. Following is just a sample of funnies that I and my colleagues have collected over the years.

One student in a College Prep class wrote a very good interpretive character study on Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. I was reading along intently, admiring the fact that she'd mostly listened in class during writing workshops...then I stumbled upon this gem of a line—"Pearl was the spawn of Satin." Laughing, I read the line aloud to my son. He curled his lip and raised his brow and said, "So....she's a soft, glossy fabric?"

I also teach Creative Writing and I was slogging through a schmaltzy love scene that made me want to dig my own eyes out when this lovely sentiment gave me back my will to live—"She leaned in close and nuzzled his neck and smelled his colon." I took the paper to my department chair, and he (being an even bigger smart aleck than me) held his side, lifted his leg and said, "Wanna smell my colon? Hold on a second."

A colleague called me to come to her room to see one of her own gems. She'd asked her freshmen to do a quick write on what they'd do to improve the world. One student wrote, "I would get rid of all the hungary people." My colleague and I didn't know if we should laugh or not. C'mon it was kind of a racist comment! How would you feel if you were from Hungary?!

Another day, the same colleague came to my room laughing so hard she couldn't talk. She handed me a journal entry a student had written about his Christmas vacation from school. "I walked in and caught my mom raping my Christmas presents on Christmas Eve." Actually, we were unsure if we should laugh or call Child Protective Services. I mean if there's raping of Christmas presents going on in this kid's house...

*So, no....not bored at all. Would you be?*



## Karen's Kolumn

I have just returned from a trip to Los Angeles, visiting my sister. The brown haze was quite a contrast to the green Oregon rainforest. Yah, it's a rainforest, just not tropical.

always feel the freedom to laugh, regardless of circumstances.

*Karen Lee,*

Chief Cook & Bottlewasher

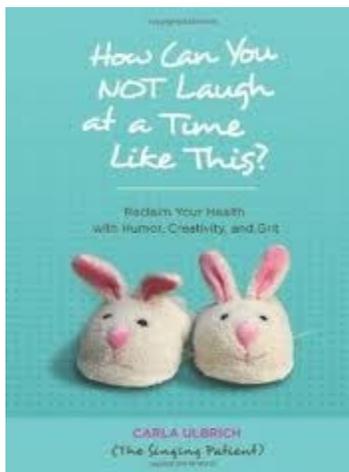


Sign up by email to: [Karen@LaughterRx.net](mailto:Karen@LaughterRx.net) and have your free **Laughter Rx** delivered to your inbox on the first of every month.

Wishing you a cooler summer and happy Fourth of July. May you

## How Can You NOT Laugh at a Time Like This?

by [Carla Ulbrich](#)



*"When I got seriously ill at age twenty-five, I lost my sense of humor for a while."*

*"It's more important to know what sort of a person this disease has, than to know what sort of a disease this person has."*  
-Sir William Osler

Lupus has run into an unstoppable force, Carla Ulbrich. Her helpful book details in easy to read chapters, tips, quips and advice to reclaim your health with humor, creativity and grit.

Many people face serious and/or chronic health conditions. Not only do they have to deal with a short attention span medical

environment, they also contend with family, friends and strangers commenting on their status and strategies.

It can seem like a neverending struggle to cope. Carla's book is just the remedy for anyone seeking peace of mind in these difficult circumstances.

For example she advises, "If we give people something to do or say, they won't feel so helpless, and we won't feel so neglected."

Need a quick pick me up? Grab "How Can You NOT Laugh at a Time Like This?" and read the Table of Contents. You will find such gems as

"You Can't Hide Your Money in an Air Mattress", "Give a Man a Rubber Chicken and He Will Laugh for a Day" and "What I Learned by Being a Lousy Athlete"

Order your copy and read it today, even if your only chronic condition is life.

[Check out her humorous CDs](#) inspired by her serious crises

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# Food for Thought

Don't wait until you have completed your vacation trip to enjoy the scenery.

The smallest kind act is greater than the greatest best intention.

In real love you want the other person's good. In romantic love you want the other person.

My one great ambition is to be able to afford to spend what I'm already spending.

A hospital stay teaches two lessons. Neither your insurance nor your gown covers everything.

## The Fourth of July

The British are missing the American colonies more than ever. They could power the whole London Olympic village with the hot air from Congress alone.

My daughter Bubbles is not overly bright. She loves the bill of rights, but wonders why the founding fathers thought it was a good idea for bears to be armed.

During the Fourth of July holiday I was really scared by the Twilight Zone Marathon...then I realized I was watching C-Span.



[Photo by Anita Ritenour](#)

I really love celebrating the Fourth...the parades, the sparklers, the loud bursts from the neighbors firing up their grills.

In honor of the Fourth of July holiday I reread the Bill of Rights...was I surprised to find a clause guaranteeing the right to Tweet after 3 AM.

Now I know what the Fourth really means...that's the fraction of your money left in your bank account after taxes.

This year to save money our town combined the fireworks and trash pickup...it didn't turn out well...the greens were mad at all the incineration.

My dyslexic dad is a real history and baseball buff. On the Fourth of July we go to the game and he roots for Babe Lincoln.

Every Independence Day I feel so patriotic. I begin thinking about mom, apple pie...dyeing the poodle red, white and blue.

Education isn't what it used to be. If you ask a student today about Concord they think it is either a plane, a grape or a hard level in Guitar Hero.

# Medical Mirth

from [Larry Wilde's Library of Laughter](#), Jester Press: 1988

“Try this pill at bedtime”, said the doctor. “If you can keep it on your stomach, it should cure you.”  
Meeting the patient the next day, the doctor asked, "Did you keep the pill on your stomach?"

"I did when I was awake", said the patient "but when I fell asleep it rolled off."

Kindergarten teacher: “What do you do when you are sick?”

Little boy: “Mommy says we should insult the doctor.”

First little boy (in a hospital ward): “Are you medical or surgical?”

Second little boy: “I don't know. What does that mean—medical or surgical?”

First boy: “Were you sick when you came or did they make you sick after you got here.”

Dr. Hogarth called the Texas oilman aside and said, “Shall I give your wife a local anesthetic?”

“No” snapped the Texan. “I'm rich, give her the best! Give her something imported!”

“Cheer up!” said the doctor, “I have the same ailment as you.”

“Yeah said the lawyer, but you don't have the same doctor.”



[Photo by Gov/Ba](#)