

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Jokes and Justifications

**Directions:** Read the passage carefully and focus on how the speaker uses playful or distinctive language. **Highlight or underline** any unusual or memorable words or phrases. Decide what each of those words is doing: adding humor, showing emotion, or trying to persuade. Explain how the speaker's word choices shape his personality and tone.

### "Just a Joke"

"Okay, okay, before you start calling me 'Trouble,' let me just say—it was *harmless*. The whoopee cushion didn't hurt anyone; it just made Mr. Grant's face turn the color of ketchup! I swear, I only did it to lighten the mood. The test was brutal, and everyone needed a laugh. Besides, laughter is, like, science-approved medicine, right? If anything, I was doing community service, one giggle at a time."

### Response Section:

1. Which words or phrases show humor in the class clown's voice?

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2. Which ones express emotion or reveal personality?

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3. Which ones sound persuasive or defensive?

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4. How do these language choices help you understand the speaker's attitude toward authority?

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