

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Jokes and Justifications Answer Key

1. **Humor:** "whoopee cushion," "color of ketchup," "one giggle at a time."
2. **Emotion:** "everyone needed a laugh," "brutal," "community service."
3. **Persuasion:** "harmless," "science-approved medicine," "doing community service."
4. The mix of humor and persuasion shows he's playful but also clever; trying to charm his way out of trouble using wit.

### Teacher's Guide:

- **Skill Focus:** Teaches students to identify how **word choice** builds voice and reveals character motives.
- **Before Reading:** Introduce the concept of *purposeful diction*: why characters use certain words to get reactions.
- **During Reading:** Encourage students to read the passage aloud, emphasizing tone shifts between humor and defense.
- **After Reading:** Discuss how humor can both deflect blame and express personality.
- **Extension Idea:** Have students write their own short defense speech in the voice of another type of character (e.g., a strict teacher, shy student, or dramatic actor) using distinct vocabulary that fits that persona.