# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**PROLOGUE**  
*Funny by Nagueyalti Warren*  
4

**CREATING CONTEXT**  
You Have to Be There · Comedy: A Serious Business · Concept Vocabulary  
9

**CLUSTER ONE**  
**What Makes You Laugh?**  
Thinking Skill: Evaluating  
15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memories of Dating</td>
<td>Dave Barry</td>
<td>newspaper column</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Adoption of Albert</td>
<td>Barbara Robinson</td>
<td>short story</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Say Good Night, Gracie</td>
<td>George Burns and Gracie Allen</td>
<td>comedy sketch</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beware the Ides of November</td>
<td>Ellen Conford</td>
<td>short story</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from a Nut</td>
<td>Ted L. Nancy</td>
<td>letters</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RESPONDING TO CLUSTER ONE**  
Writing Activity: Evaluating What Makes You Laugh  
50

**CLUSTER TWO**  
**How Is Humor Used?**  
Thinking Skill: Analyzing  
51

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fish Eyes</td>
<td>David Brenner</td>
<td>autobiography</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life’s a Sketch</td>
<td>Michael Neill and Bob Calandra</td>
<td>article</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pancakes</td>
<td>Joan Bauer</td>
<td>short story</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Humor Helps
CAROLYN J. GARD article 73

Money: Too Tight to Mention
SINBAD comedy monologue 77

RESPONDING TO CLUSTER TWO
Writing Activity Analyzing the Uses of Humor 82

CLUSTER THREE What Are Some Types of Humor? 83
Thinking Skill CLASSIFYING
‘toon Time cartoons 84

Youngest Child Tries to Tell a Joke
ERMA BOMBECK newspaper column 86

Word Wit
VARIOUS AUTHORS nonfiction collection 88

The Clown
PATRICK F. MCMANUS short story 94

Hey, You Down There!
HAROLD ROLSETH short story 100

Pet Haiku
NANCEE BELSCHAW poetry 112

A Conversation with My Dogs
MERRILL MARKOE drama 114

RESPONDING TO CLUSTER THREE
Writing Activity Pick Up the Humor Pen 120

CLUSTER FOUR Thinking on Your Own 121
Thinking Skill SYNTHESIZING

Light Verse
VARIOUS CONTRIBUTORS poems 122
Shotgun Cheatham’s
Last Night Above Ground
RICHARD PECK short story 124

How to Eat Like a Child
DELIA EPHRON how-to parody 134

A Houseful of Love and Laughter
JAY LENO autobiography 137

RESPONDING TO CLUSTER FOUR 143

CLOSE READING 144
USING TEXTUAL EVIDENCE 151
COMPARING TEXTS 153
AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES 156