


Funny Bones Activity Ideas



Making a Tableau: Read through the story with your class and pick out a selection of scenes i.e. the Skeletons playing in that park, taking a ride on the Ghost Train or being frightened by the Dino-Saws. Split the children up into small groups and ask them to choose their favourite scene, and then ask them to create a tableau (a motionless scene from a story). Once the children have practiced their tableaux you can turn this activity into a game of musical statues, where the group to organise their tableau the fastest is the winner. You can access eleven of the Funny Bones television programmes on [YouTube](#) for inspiration.

Art: Once the children know several of the Funny Bones stories, go through each one and talk about the locations mentioned i.e. the Skeleton's house, the zoo, the train station and the park. After you have named a few places ask the children to create a map of what they think the Skeleton's town would look like, for younger children you can do this together during circle time on a large piece of paper.

Imagine: Ask the children to imagine that the Skeletons are real and create a character profile for each one. What are their names? What are their likes and dislikes? Where are their favourite places to go on holidays? For older children you can extend this exercise by asking them to write a diary entry as if they were one of the Skeletons, this can be done as a spider diagram or as continuous prose.

Language: Start to think about the words that are used in the story and discuss what other kinds of words could be used in their place (synonyms and antonyms). The words 'night' and 'dark' are repeated continuously throughout the story, what other words can you find?

Human Bones: Put the children into small groups and using a large piece of paper, draw around the outline of one of them. Then, using a volunteer, the teacher will point out different bones and the children can draw them onto their templates. Depending on the age group you might want to just use this exercise to help the children identify different parts of the body, but for older children commonly known bones such as the femur, tibia and radius could also be mentioned. You might also be interested in our [Bones of the Body Bingo game](#).

Drama: Discuss with the children the different ways the skeletons tried to frighten each other. In threes, children take the roles of the two skeletons and the dog and have to practice some different ways of scaring each other. Can they act as though they are not expecting to be surprised?

Story: Ask the children to write their own Funny Bones story, based on the characters from the books. A good way to do this could be to ask the children to imagine that the Skeletons are going to go outside during the day, what could happen in the daytime that couldn't happen at night? What kind of things will they see? Depending on the age group this activity could either be completed together as part of circle time, in small groups or individually, and the depth of the writing can be tailored depending on ability i.e. a spider diagram or story board rather than continuous prose.

We have a very extensive collection of Funny Bones resources that you can access [here](#).

