

# What's So Funny?

**Q: What makes people laugh?**

**A:** People don't always find the same things funny. Different things can make us laugh. Some people find silly jokes very funny. Others laugh at comical stories or books.

Scientists have studied what makes us laugh. They agree that surprise is the key to laughter. That's why people laugh when someone falls over or steps in a puddle. If a play has a funny twist that surprises us we might laugh. However, if we have heard a funny joke too many times, it may not make us laugh.



**Q: What is a comedy?**

**A:** A comedy is a TV show, a play, or a movie that is written to make people laugh.

**Q: What were the first comedies?**

**A:** The first known comedies were plays written over two thousand years ago by Aristophanes (Ar-ih-STOFF-uh-nee-z) in Ancient Greece. His plays made people laugh. Some plays from Ancient Greece are still popular today!

