

Lesson 1

Truth and Pain

Grades: Advanced (11-12)

Educational Objective: The student will demonstrate the ability to recognize that Comedy is Truth and Pain by

Materials Needed: Video clips of falls, trips, and blunders (there are plenty on YouTube)

Hook: Have someone tell a joke.

Step 1: Show video clips of falls, trips and blunders.

Step 2: Discuss any pain seen in the video clips. Why is it funny to see someone get hurt? The truth is we've all slipped on the ice or hit our thumb with a hammer at some point. Why is it funny when we see it happen to someone else? Discuss truth and pain as it relates to comedy. Traveling salesman jokes are truth and pain. The truth is that the salesman wants something and the pain is that he is never going to get it.

Step 3: Analyze this joke: Adam says to God, "God, why did you make women so soft?" God says, "So that you will like them." Adam says, "God, why did you make women so warm and cuddly?" God says, "So that you will like them." Adam says, "But God, why did you make them so stupid?" God says, "So that they will like you." Truth: We're all human, we all have gender and we are all in this together. Pain: We all have differing opinions of each other. That's truth and pain. Tell a joke that has no truth or truth only to a few. It is not funny if it has no truth or if people don't recognize the truth. For example, if someone tell a fat joke about someone who isn't fat, it isn't funny.

Step 4: Have several students tell a joke and analyze them by finding the truth and pain.

Step 5: Put them in groups of 4 or 5 and give each group a truth below and have them make up a pain associated with it and then prepare a comical skit which demonstrates the truth.

Truths

- Some teachers are boring.
- Some students don't take tests well.
- Some people watch too much TV
- Some people eat too much
- Some people are bad drivers
- Some people lose their hair
- Some people are not athletic
- Some people lack common sense.
- Some people are beautiful
- Some people are clumsy
- Some people don't believe in the afterlife.
- Everyone will die.
- Everyone was born.
- Chemicals can explode.

Step 5: Have each group announce their Truth and then perform their comical skit.

Step 6: Discuss. What pain did each group find relating to their truth? Was it funny? We need to find truth and pain in all comedy we experience to become good at recognizing it.