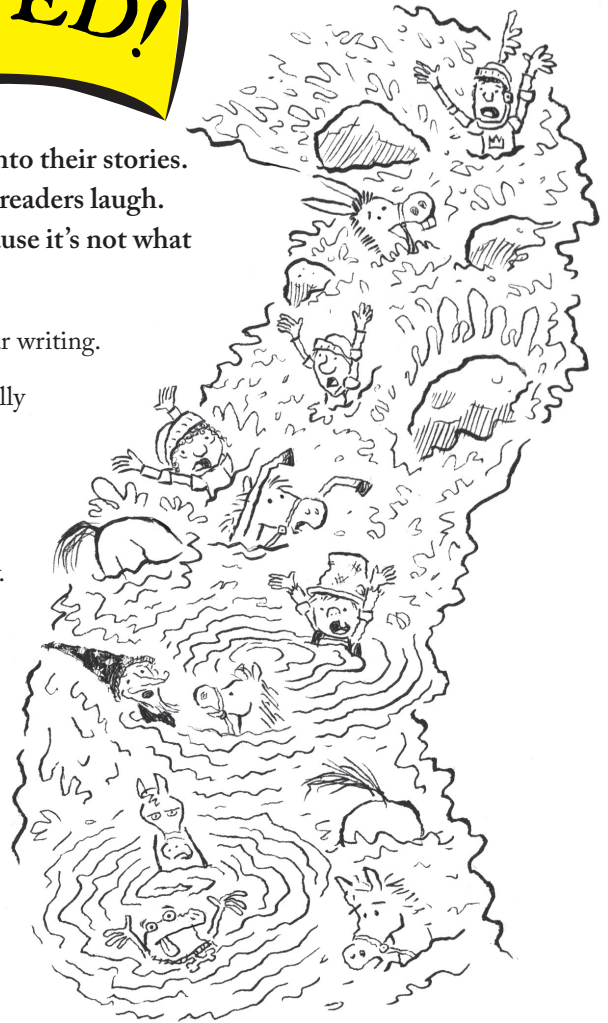


# THAT WAS UNEXPECTED!

Who doesn't like a funny story? There are many ways authors weave humor into their stories. In the book *Once Upon a Tim*, author Stuart Gibbs uses *incongruity* to make readers laugh. Incongruity is the sense that something is out of place, or seems strange because it's not what you expect. For example, Rover is a giant frog that acts like a dog.

**Add Humor to Your Writing:** Below are more tools you can use to add humor to your writing.

- **HYPERBOLE** – extreme or impossible exaggeration not meant to be taken literally
  - ★ Example: My backpack weighs a ton!
- **UNDERSTATEMENT** – statement that makes a situation seem less severe or important than it really is
  - ★ Example: Maybe eating a carton of ice cream wasn't the best way to start the day.
- **SURPRISE** – unexpected turn of events in a scene, paragraph, or ending
  - ★ Example: In *Once Upon a Tim*, readers experience a funny surprise when they learn that Ferkle is not at all who everyone thinks he is.
- **METAPHOR** – comparing things that have something in common but are not at all alike
  - ★ Example: He had more problems than a math book.
- **PUN** – play on words where terms with similar or exact sounds have a different meaning; sometimes puns can even be found in names
  - ★ Example: Some people say I'm addicted to somersaults but that's just how I roll.
  - ★ Example: The name of a witch in *Once Upon a Tim* is Witch Waydideeego.



## Writers' Workshop

Create humorous events that happen to your character for each plot line you listed in Activity 2. Outline the events in the spaces below. As you brainstorm, imagine what the event would look like and draw it on the back of this sheet.

### Beginning

### Middle

### End