Helping your children choose books they will love

I ♥ reading

Lovereading4kids.co.uk is a book website created for parents and children to make choosing books easy and fun

Opening extract from

How do you make a Skeleton Laugh?

Poems selected by

John Foster

Illustrated by

Mark Oliver

Published by

Oxford University Press

All Text is Copyright © of the Author and/or Illustrator

Please print off and read at your leisure.

Lovereading4kids.co.uk


How do you
make a
Skeleton
laugh?

Other books in this series:

What Wears a Sock on its Bottom?

What Happens When the Queen Burps?

What Do You Call a One-eyed Dinosaur?

Poetry Collections by John Foster:

School's Out

Excuses, Excuses

Football Fever

I've Got a Poem For You

Poetry by John Foster:

The Poetry Chest

How do you make a Skeleton laugh?



Rib-tickling jokes,
riddles, and rhymes
selected by John Foster

Illustrated by Mark Oliver

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP
Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York

Auckland Cape Town Dar es Salaam Hong Kong Karachi
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Nairobi
New Delhi Shanghai Taipei Toronto

With offices in

Argentina Austria Brazil Chile Czech Republic France Greece
Guatemala Hungary Italy Japan Poland Portugal Singapore
South Korea Switzerland Thailand Turkey Ukraine Vietnam

Oxford is a registered trade mark of Oxford University Press
in the UK and in certain other countries

The selection and arrangement © John Foster 2012
Illustrations © Mark Oliver 2012

The moral rights of the author and illustrator have been asserted

Database right Oxford University Press (maker)

First published 2012

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press,
or as expressly permitted by law, or under terms agreed with the appropriate
reprographics rights organization. Enquiries concerning reproduction
outside the scope of the above should be sent to the Rights Department,
Oxford University Press, at the address above

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover
and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Data available

ISBN: 978-0-19-275739-5
1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in Great Britain
Paper used in the production of this book is a natural,
recyclable product made from wood grown in sustainable forests.
The manufacturing process conforms to the environmental
regulations of the country of origin.

CONTENTS

Funny Bones and Spare Ribs	7
Which Witch?	9
Roller Ghosters and Hide and Shriek	11
I Know a Girl Called Norah Bone	12
Crazy Cops and Ridiculous Robbers	15
Snake Bites and Ratsnatchers	18
Dead Funny	21
You Have Been Warned!	23
Batty Books and Potty Plays	26
What's the Difference? And Like for Like	28
Tombstone Tart and Eyes Scream	31
Crazy Carols and Christmas Crackers	35
Ludicrous Limericks	38
Dotty Definitions	40
Major Answer	41
Tell Them to Buzz Off	44
Doctor, Doctor, I Feel like a Pack of Cards	45
Football Funnies	48
Irish Spew and Bogey Pie	50

Six Sick Sikhs Met Six Sick Sheiks 53
Don't Open the Door to a Dinosaur 54
Where Do Fish Keep Their Money? 57
I Wish I Were a Dozen Eggs 59
Why Did the Lobster Blush? 62
Monday's Child Is as Slimy as a Snail 66
Thought for the Day 68
Crazy Conversations 70
The Invisible Man Said... 71
Teacher, Teacher 72
Senseless Signs 76
Really Odd Relatives 80
Pickled Bug and Lambo 82
Hilarious History 86
Shiver Me Timbers! 88
Did You Hear About ... ? 90

Answers to riddles and puzzles 92

FUNNY BONES AND SPARE RIBS

How do you make a skeleton laugh?
By tickling its funny bone.

Why did the skeleton go to the Chinese takeaway?
To get some spare ribs.

What did the skeleton say to his friend in a storm?
'Oooh that wind goes straight through me.'

Why did Old Mother Hubbard shriek?
Because she found a skeleton in the cupboard.

What do you call a lazy skeleton?
Bone idle.

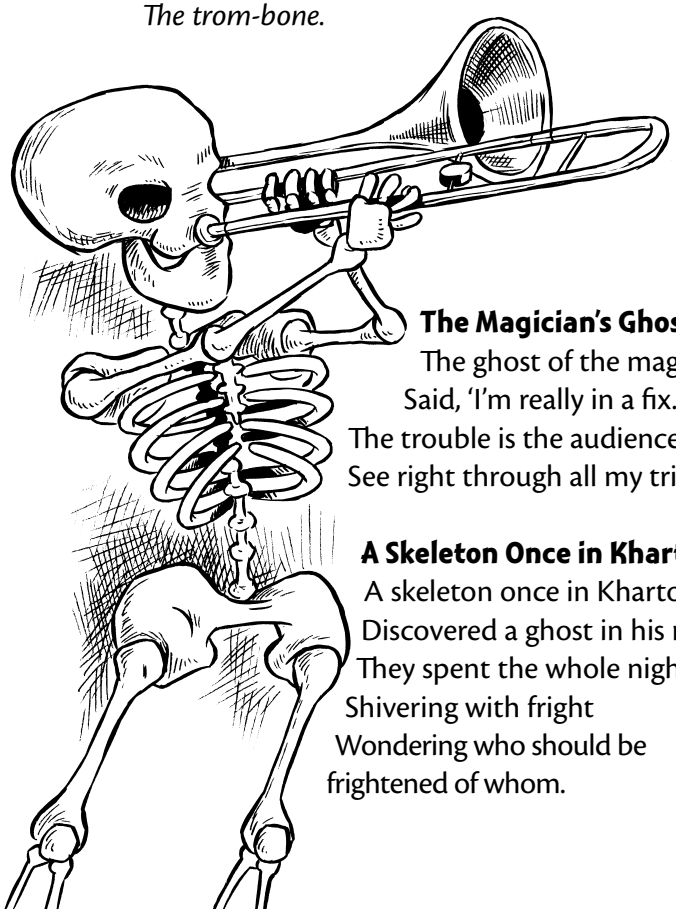
What did the vulture say to the skeleton?
I've a bone to pick with you.

Why are skeletons so calm?
Nothing gets under their skin.

Why are skeletons always lonely?
They haven't got any body to keep them company.

Why wouldn't the skeleton cross the road?
He didn't have the guts.

What is a skeleton's favourite instrument?
The trom-bone.



The Magician's Ghost

The ghost of the magician
Said, 'I'm really in a fix.
The trouble is the audience
See right through all my tricks.'

A Skeleton Once in Khartoum

A skeleton once in Khartoum
Discovered a ghost in his room;
They spent the whole night
Shivering with fright
Wondering who should be
frightened of whom.

WHICH WITCH?

What does a witch ask for when she's staying in a hotel?
Broom service.

What did the skeleton say to the twin witches?
Which witch is which?

What was the name of the witch's father?
He was cauldron.

How do you make a witch scratch?
Drop the w to make her itch.

What do you call a nervous witch?
Twitch.

The Wizard of Oz
The wonderful wizard of Oz
Retired from the business because
What with up-to-date science,
To most of his clients
He wasn't the wizard he was.



Wanda's Academy for Witches

School Report for B. Wicked *Hallowe'en Term*

Transformation: Needs to concentrate more. Keeps turning herself into a hyena and won't stop cackling.

Witchcraft: Her spell-weaving is improving.

Flying: Must control her temper. Sometimes loses control of her broomstick and flies off the handle.

Appearance: Very good. Has developed some revolting warts and is growing uglier every term.

Hygiene: Excellent. Has managed not to wash all term and is developing a pungent odour.

Behaviour: Is making progress at being consistently bad.

Overall: Is beginning to become an enchanting person.

ROLLER GHOSTERS AND HIDE AND SHRIEK

Which ride do ghosts like best at the theme park?
The roller ghoster.

Why did the ghost stop buying lottery tickets?
Because he didn't have a ghost of a chance of winning.

What is a ghost's favourite game?
Hide and shriek.

Where do baby ghosts go when their parents are out haunting?
Dayscare.

What is a ghost's favourite form of transport?
Scare-o-plane.

What does the headless horseman ride?
A night-mare.

Where do ghosts go swimming?
In the Dead Sea.



There Once was a Ghost Called Paul
There once was a ghost called Paul
Who went to a fancy dress ball.
To shock all the guests
He went quite undressed
But no one could see him at all.

What did the ghost teacher say to the class?
Watch the board and I'll go through it again.

When do ghosts play tricks on each other?
April Ghoul's Day.

What are a ghost's favourite foods?
Dreaded wheat and ghoulash.

Where will you never find a ghost in a haunted house?
The living room.

I KNOW A GIRL CALLED NORAH BONE

I know a girl called Norah Bone.
She's got a friend called Mona Lotte.

That's nothing.



I know a boy called Neil Down.
He's got a friend called Stan Duppe.

That's nothing.

I know a boy called Ivor Screwloose.
He's got a friend called Lou Chain.

That's nothing.

I know a boy called Ben Nevis.
He's got a friend called Rocky Mountain.

That's nothing.

I know a boy called Dicky Bird.
He's got a friend called Polly Parrot.

That's nothing.

I know a boy called Jim Shoe.
He's got a friend called Bobbie Socks.

That's nothing.

I know a girl called Hazel Nutt.
She's got a friend called Marguerita Pizza.



People Who Lived Up to Their Names

Justin Amin was never ready on time.
Percival Pickalock led a life of crime.
Bert Balderdash talked a lot of nonsense.
Hatty Hesitate always sat on the fence.
Walter Wrigglebum would never sit still.
Stanley Sickalot was always ill.
Imogen Idle was utterly lazy.
Cyril Crackers was completely crazy.
Norman Nailbiter suffered from stress.
Charlotte Carefree couldn't care less.

Name the Girl, Name the Boy—A Word Puzzle

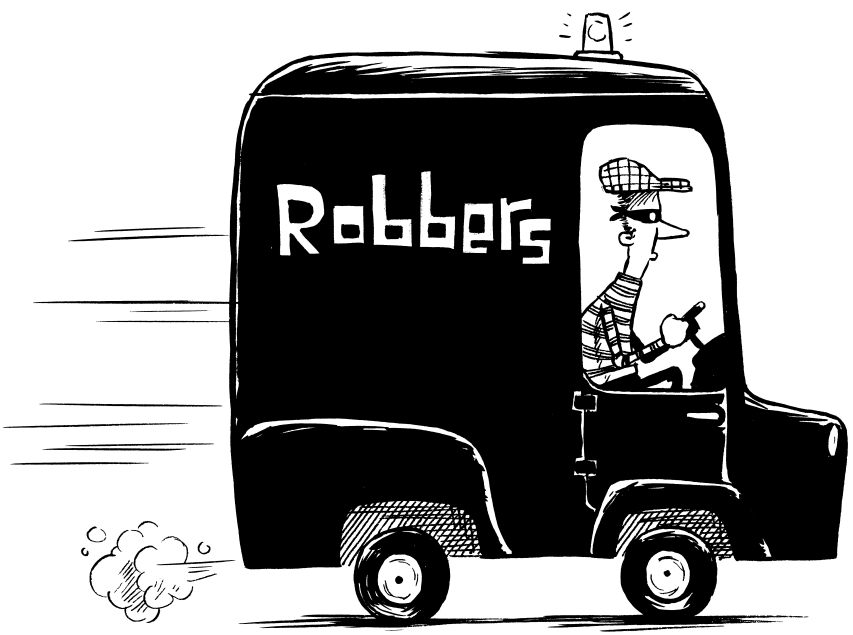
1. Which girl can be found in a yacht?
2. Which boy can be found in a cigar?
3. Which girl can be found hiding in a habitat?
4. Which boy can be found turning round a warden?
5. Which girl can be found in a breath?
6. Which girl is found with a different label?
7. Which boy can be seen wandering yonder?
8. Which boy is in denial?
9. Which girl can be found in dangle?
10. Which boy is tangled up in a spire?

CRAZY COPS AND RIDICULOUS ROBBERS

Why did the belt go to jail?
Because it held up some trousers.

Newsflash
Two dozen computer screens were stolen from a van last night. Police are said to be monitoring the situation.

Who was the world's greatest thief?
Atlas, because he held up the whole world.



There Once Was a Man Called Finnigan
There once was a man called Finnigan
Who broke out of jail to sin again.
He broke laws by the dozen
Even stole from his cousin
Now the jail he broke out of, he's in again.

Why was the photographer arrested?
The police found his prints at the scene of the crime.

Break-In News
A lorryload of filing cabinets and documents was stolen last night. Police think there might be links to organized crime.

Newsflash
A set of traffic lights has been stolen from a main road junction in Reading. A police spokesman said, 'Some thieves will stop at nothing.'

Why was the policeman carrying a pencil and a thin piece of paper?
Because he wanted to trace someone.

Newsflash
A woman has been found dead in a bathtub full of milk and cornflakes. Police are looking for a cereal killer.

Why did Robin Hood only rob the rich?
Because the poor didn't have anything worth stealing.

A woman woke her husband in the middle of the night. 'There's a burglar downstairs eating the cake I made yesterday.'
'Who shall I call,' her husband said, 'police or ambulance?'

