

LIGHTEN UP #4: That's Entertainment

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My father was a quitter, my grandfather was a quitter, I was raised to give up. It's one of the few things I do well. George Costanza in "Seinfeld"

INTRODUCTION

I love to read. I actually have to read before I can fall asleep at night, no matter what the hour. And, of course, some of my favorite things to read are humorous books. My son Alex takes after me in this regard. One of his favorite Christmas presents was the "Jokelopedia," which is a collection of jokes, stories and facts about famous funny people. He absolutely loves that book. Another thing that Alex does is write funny stories. (I'm not sure if he means them to be funny, but they sure are.) I



made the layout on the previous page to document one of his super heroes: Recycle Boy. I even included some scanned art of Recycle Boy himself.

We also enjoy a great funny movie or TV show. I am a HUGE fan of the old "Seinfeld" series, and it never fails to make me laugh, even after all these years. I also love "I Love Lucy" for the same reason - timeless humor.

Think about what makes you laugh in your daily life. You may discover things you never even thought about!

JOURNALING for "Recycle Boy:" Defender of the recycling bin...sworn enemy of Litterman...able to take milk cartons to the garage and defeat bad guys without missing a beat...he is Recycle Boy...and star of his own comic book series written by Alex. Recycle Boy ROCKS!

SCRAPBOOKING THE ENTERTAINMENT THAT MAKES YOU LAUGH

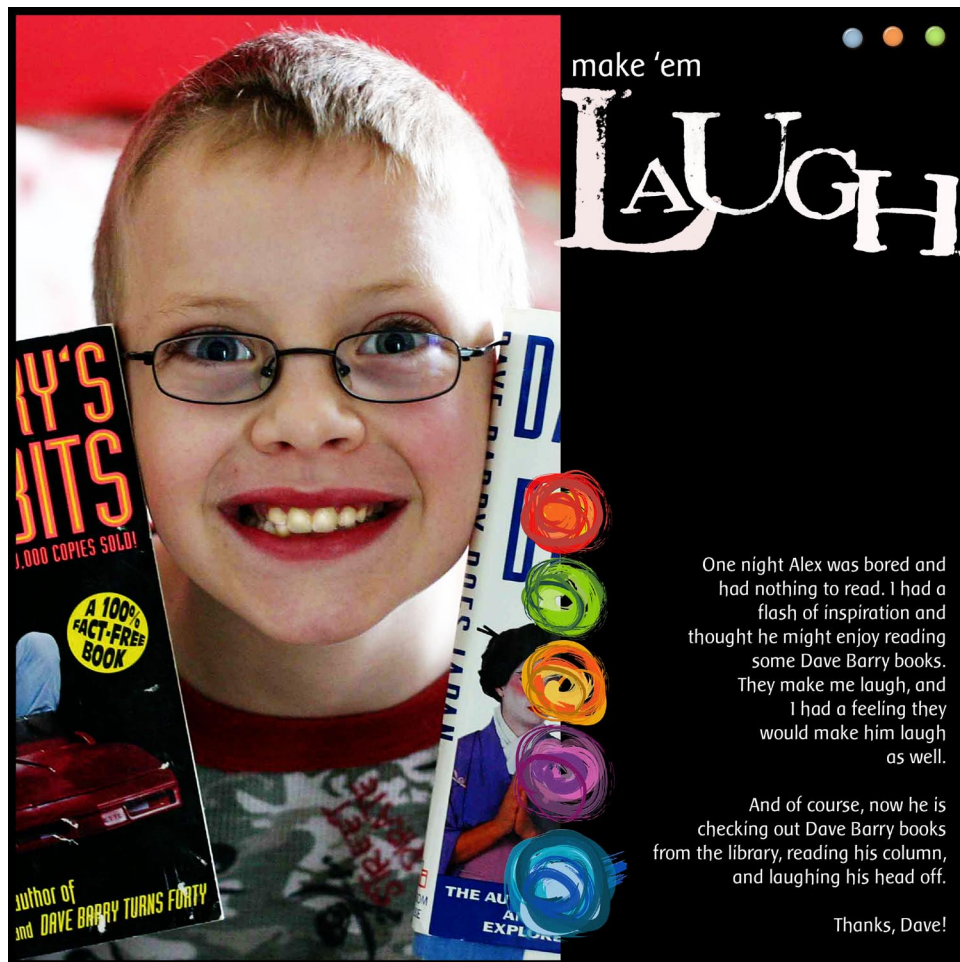
1. Think about the books that always make you laugh.

I love a funny book. Anything written by Jen Lancaster comes to mind, or Dave Barry, or even parts of Stephen King books - they can be wickedly funny! But my all-time favorite books to read when I want a good belly laugh are the Stephanie Plum books by Janet Evanovich. I never fail to laugh out loud—literally—especially when the plot involves Grandma Mazur.

"Make 'Em Laugh" is a layout about my son's discovery of Dave Barry and his humor. And as an interesting update, we e-mailed Mr. Barry one night, just telling him how much Alex enjoyed his reading material...and he e-mailed back one day later. Alex was beyond thrilled, and I like Mr. Barry that much more since he did that!

How I scrapbooked my son's love of funny reading in "Make 'Em Laugh:"

- ◇ Photos. One large photo did the trick here. To show the books in question, I simply had Alex pose with the books held up by his face...and, of course, his goofy grin just adds to the feel of the page.
- ◇ Journaling. The journaling itself isn't necessarily funny, but it talks about something that is. I have found that when I push to be funny, I'm not. That's OK. Sometimes simple documentation is best.
- ◇ Embellishments. Since most of this layout was black, I decided to add brightly colored embellishments (paint swirls and brads) to set off the black. I kept it simple and balanced the embellishments with a large photo.



JOURNALING for "Make 'Em Laugh:" One night Alex was bored and had nothing to read. I had a flash of inspiration and thought he might enjoy reading some Dave Barry books. They make me laugh, and I had a feeling they would make him laugh as well. And, of course, now he is checking out Dave Barry books from the library, reading his column, and laughing his head off. Thanks, Dave!

2. Scrapbook the funny TV shows you like.

As I said earlier, I have a love for the show "Seinfeld." I can recount Seinfeld quotes all day long, and it makes me laugh to this day, even though the show ended almost 11 years ago. A simple phrase like "Serenity NOW!" still produces a chuckle.

I'm not home a lot at night these days, but when I am (and the kids are out of the room) I greatly enjoy watching "Two and a Half Men." It's completely inappropriate but, oh, so funny. The same applies to "Family Guy" and, after 19 years, "The Simpsons."

"Food Network" goes in a bit of a different direction when talking about TV. Instead of saying that Food Network is funny (which it can be), I got more of a charge out of the fact that it is the one thing we can ALL watch and enjoy together. I didn't think a lot of families could say that, and it just struck me funny and made me want to document it.



JOURNALING for "Food Network:" Lately it seems that we turn on the Food Network a lot in this house. The kids LOVE watching the shows, and I have made several of the recipes with their help. We all have our favorite shows, but we'll watch just about anything food-related. Who says TV doesn't give you quality family time?

- How I documented my family's odd-choice for a TV show to love in "Food Network:"
- ◇ Design. I modeled this layout on the graphics that run on Food Network, with the circles and swirls. I was even lucky enough to find a font that came very close to matching the font on the TV ads.
- ◇ Journaling. In addition to the regular journaling, I listed each person's favorite shows by their photo. This helps to personalize the layout. Someday we'll forget what shows we liked...until we look at this page again.

3. Scrapbook funny movies that you love.

EVERYBODY has movies that make them laugh. I'm a big fan of silly humor, so "Airplane" is a movie I can watch over and over—the same with "Caddyshack" or any of the "Vacation" movies: silly, silly humor.

I have also influenced others in their choice of funny movies. You see, I have always loved "Monty Python's Flying Circus." I watched it all the time in college and thought it was great. I have passed this love down to my two oldest children, who recently saw "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" and loved it. Now they go around quoting it constantly.

This layout ("Ppppppbbbbbllllltttt!") cracks me up, because it's about my kids' newfound love for Monty Python, and they are imitating the French castle guards from one scene of the movie.

How I show my kids' love of Monty Python in "Pppbbbbbllllttt!"

- ◇ Title. The title is actually that sticking-your-tongue-out-blowing-a-raspberry noise, as best as I could spell it. I decided to give it top billing and use a whole bunch of cardstock letter stickers to spell it out.
- ◇ Photos. I could have used two photos of my kids doing that thing with their hands, but they couldn't do it for long without falling over laughing, which illustrated my point perfectly.
- ◇ Design. I kept this very straightforward and centered, to tell the story and feature the photos.



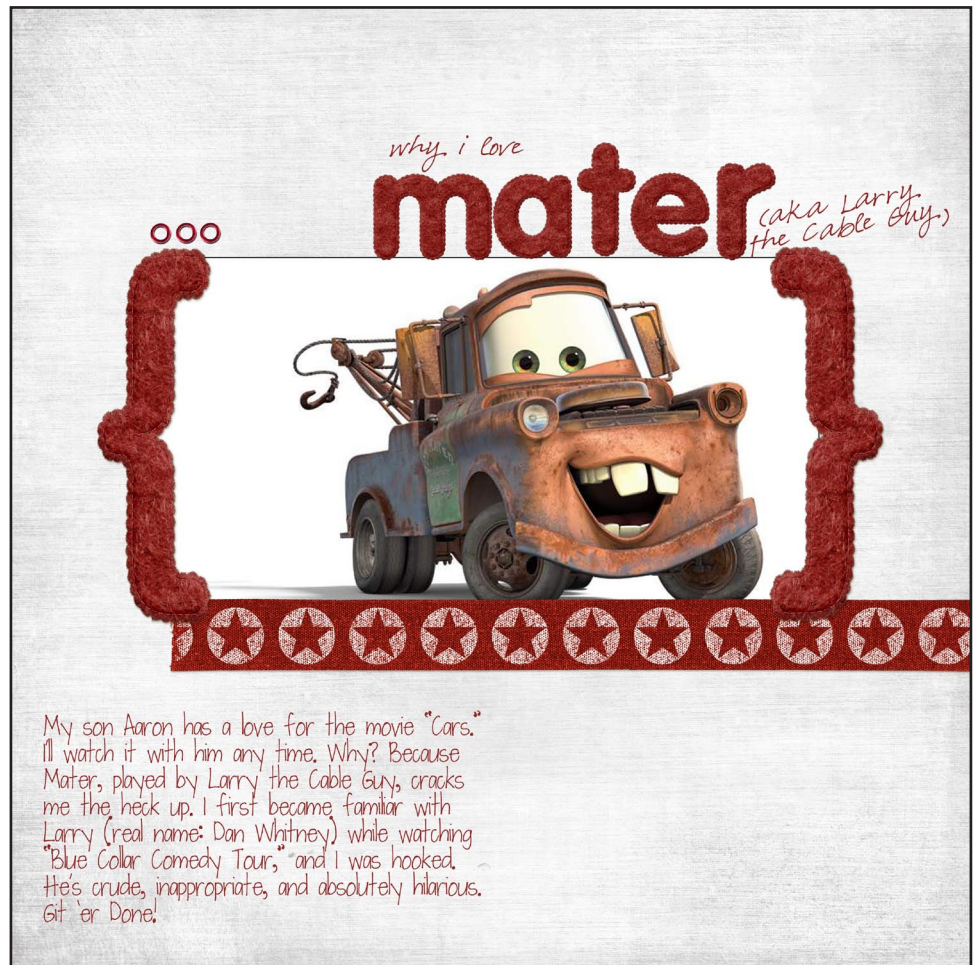
JOURNALING for "PppBbBbLlLlTtTt!!:" I loved Monty Python all through college. It was my great pleasure to be able to introduce my kids to "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." Now they constantly quote the part where the knights visit the French castle, and they want to watch the movie again and again. "Now go away, or I shall taunt you a second time!"

4. Document comedians or acts that amuse you.

From the time I was very young, I thought Bill Cosby was one of the funniest men on earth. I remember listening to the old 33 rpm records of his routines at age 7 or 8, and laughing as he bellowed, "NOAHHHHHH." More recently, my husband brought home the DVD of "Blue Collar Comedy Tour," starring Bill Engvall, Ron White, Larry the Cable Guy, and Jeff Foxworthy. I don't think I have laughed that hard in YEARS.

My husband has always been a fan of the late George Carlin. Who makes you laugh every time? Share stories of who, why, and if you have ever seen them in person.

This layout "Why I Love Mater" talks about my admittedly strange admiration of Larry the Cable Guy, whom I just find incredibly funny, especially since his real life personality is nothing like his "Larry" persona.



How I cracked myself up with "Why I Love Mater:"

- ◇ Embellishments. I chose woolen-look letters and brackets along with gaffer tape to the side, to balance the journaling on the other side. Three small rings balance the gaffer tape to the left.
- ◇ Journaling. Again, I chose to document rather than try to be funny. I did add Larry's trademark "Git `er done!" at the end. If your favorite comedian has a catchphrase, add it to your layout!

JOURNALING for "Mater:" My son Aaron has a love for the movie "Cars." I'll watch it with him any time. Why? Because Mater, played by Larry the Cable Guy, cracks me the heck up. I first became familiar with Larry (real name: Dan Whitney) while watching "Blue Collar Comedy Tour," and I was hooked. He's crude, inappropriate, and absolutely hilarious. Git `er Done!

TRIGGERS

Trigger #1: Your collection.

Look through your book, DVD or VHS collection and see what jumps out at you. Are there many humorous titles? If so, do they have anything in common? Do you like a particular type of humor, such as slapstick or jokes? Or is your humor more highbrow? Scrap about what type of humor you enjoy, with some examples and personal anecdotes.

Trigger #2: Reminisce.

Think back to grade school...high school...college...life before kids. What made you laugh then in TV or movies? What books did you read just because they were funny? How have your tastes changed, or have they changed at all? Scrap about then versus now...past versus present. Or, if nothing has changed, write about that.