

1106-E5-325

Sarah J Greenwald* (greenwaldsj@appstate.edu), 121 Bodenheimer Drive, 326 Walker Hall, Boone, NC 28608. *Engaging Students with Mathematical Humor: "The Simpsons," Comics and More.*

We now interrupt this regularly scheduled class for mathematical humor, video, comics, puns and more? Well hopefully we are not actually interrupting our classes, as the best humor in the classroom ties into course content, flows naturally and has an interactive component. For years I have been engaging students (and sharing with teachers) this kind of cartoon humor in the classroom via simpsonsmath.com, coauthored with Andrew Nestler. I have also created my own comic strips for classes like linear algebra. I'll report on long-term study of student responses and the benefits and challenges of using humor in the classroom. I'll also discuss ways to choose from the existing literature or to create your own gags based on best practices. In the process I'll give examples of how I use these in classrooms, from courses for non-majors to those for majors. If space is the final frontier, then what is a subspace? Come see to find out! (Received August 22, 2014)