

**HUMOR AS A TOOL OF INFORMAL LEARNING IN JEROME K. JEROME'S  
"THREE MEN IN A BOAT"**

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**Abstract**

This article examines humor as a tool of informal learning in Jerome K. Jerome's novel Three Men in a Boat. The study focuses on how humor helps readers learn from everyday situations without direct instruction. A qualitative method is used to analyze several episodes from the novel. The findings show that humor presents common human mistakes and social interactions in a simple and clear way. It also helps readers reflect on their own behavior. The article concludes that humor supports learning by making it natural, engaging, and easy to understand.

**Keywords:** humor, informal learning, human behavior, literary analysis, Jerome K. Jerome, Three Men in a Boat, social interaction, communication, everyday life, self-awareness, experiential learning, narrative techniques

**1. Introduction**

Learning does not always happen in a classroom. People often learn from everyday experience, communication, and observation. This type of learning is called informal learning. It happens naturally, without teachers or formal instructions. Literature can play an important role in this process. Many literary works present situations that help readers think and learn. Among them, humorous texts are especially effective. Humor makes ideas easier to understand and remember. Jerome K. Jerome's novel Three Men in a Boat is a good example of how humor supports informal learning. The story describes a simple journey, but it also shows many real-life situations. The characters face small problems, misunderstand each other, and make mistakes. These situations are funny, but they also contain important lessons.

The aim of this article is to analyze how humor works as a tool of informal learning in the novel. The study also explains how readers can learn through observation and reflection.

**2. Methods**

This study uses a qualitative research method based on textual analysis. The main source of the research is Jerome K. Jerome's novel Three Men in a Boat. This method is suitable because the aim of the study is to understand how humor works in the text and what kind of learning it supports. The research focuses on selected episodes from the novel where humor is clearly visible. These episodes include situations where the characters make mistakes, misunderstand each other, or fail to complete simple tasks. Such scenes are important because they show natural human behavior in everyday life.

The analysis is carried out in several steps. First, the text is carefully read to identify humorous situations. During this stage, attention is given to actions, dialogue, and character behavior. Second, these situations are grouped based on their type. For example, some scenes are related to communication problems, while others show poor planning or overconfidence. After that, each example is analyzed to understand what kind of message it gives. The focus is on how humor presents human behavior and what readers can learn from it. Special attention is given to the connection between humor and informal learning. The study does not use statistical or numerical data. Instead, it is based on interpretation and explanation. This approach allows a deeper understanding of the text and its meaning. In addition, the research considers how readers may react to humorous situations. It looks at how humor influences thinking, memory, and

reflection. This helps to explain why humor can be an effective tool for learning. Although the study focuses on one literary work, the findings can be useful for to explore both the literary and educational aspects of humor.

### **3. Results**

The analysis shows that humor in the novel supports informal learning in different ways. First, it presents human mistakes in a simple and understandable form. For example, the packing scene shows how poor organization can lead to confusion. The characters try to prepare for their journey, but they fail to do it properly. This situation is funny, but it also shows the importance of planning. Another example is communication between characters. They often misunderstand each other or make wrong decisions. These situations show how communication problems appear in real life.

The results also show that humor helps readers notice common human behavior. Characters often act with confidence, but their actions do not match reality. This creates a difference between expectation and result.

In addition, humor makes these situations easier to accept. Instead of strong criticism, the author presents them in a light and friendly way. This allows readers to learn without feeling uncomfortable.

The novel also presents many situations where the characters try to solve problems but fail because of simple mistakes. These moments are important because they reflect real human behavior. People often think that they understand a situation, but in reality, they may not see all the details. For example, the characters sometimes try to give advice to each other, even when they are not sure what to do. This creates confusion and leads to more mistakes. This type of behavior is common in everyday life. People often act confidently even when they do not have enough knowledge.

Another important example is how the characters deal with unexpected situations. When something goes wrong, they do not always react in a logical way. Instead, they may panic, blame each other, or ignore the problem. These reactions are presented in a humorous way, but they also show real human emotions.

These scenes help readers understand that mistakes are a natural part of life. Instead of avoiding them completely, people should learn how to deal with them. Humor makes this idea easier to accept. In addition, the novel shows that people often repeat the same mistakes. Even after facing a problem, the characters do not always change their behavior. This is also realistic, because learning takes time. People need experience before they can improve.

Through these examples, humor becomes a way to show how people think, act, and learn in real life.

### **4. Discussion**

Humor in the novel is closely connected with everyday learning. The situations described in the story are simple and familiar. This idea can be clearly seen in several examples from the novel.

For example, Jerome describes a simple situation in a humorous way: “We never know what we want, but we are always certain that we want something else.” This sentence shows how people often feel confused about their own desires. It is funny, but at the same time it reflects real human behavior.

Another example can be seen in the famous packing scene, where the characters try to organize their things but only create more confusion. Jerome describes how simple tasks become difficult because of carelessness and lack of attention. This situation is humorous, but it also teaches an important lesson about planning and responsibility.

These examples show that humor in the novel is closely connected with everyday experience. Readers can recognize similar situations in their own lives and learn from them.

The characters do not face extreme or unusual challenges. Instead, they deal with normal activities such as traveling, organizing their time, and communicating with each other.

Because of this, readers can easily relate to these situations. They may remember similar experiences from their own lives. This connection makes the learning process more effective. It is not based on theory, but on real examples.

Another important point is that humor helps people notice small details. In everyday life, people often ignore simple mistakes or misunderstandings. However, in the novel, these moments are highlighted through humor. This makes them more visible and easier to understand. Humor also makes learning more enjoyable. When people enjoy a story, they are more likely to pay attention and think about its meaning. This creates a positive learning experience. The novel shows that learning does not always require complex explanations. Simple situations can also teach important lessons. Humor helps present these lessons in a natural and engaging way. As a result, readers not only enjoy the story, but also gain useful knowledge about human behavior and everyday life. The findings show that humor is an effective tool of informal learning. Readers learn not from direct explanations, but from observation.

When readers see characters making mistakes, they may think about similar situations in their own lives. This creates reflection and self-awareness. Learning becomes a natural process. The role of humor in informal learning can also be connected with real-life situations outside literature. In everyday life, people learn from experience, communication, and observation. They do not always need formal lessons to understand something new. The novel reflects this process clearly. The characters are not guided by a teacher, but they still go through different situations that contain learning opportunities. Readers can observe these situations and understand the consequences of certain actions. Humor makes this process more effective because it removes pressure. When people are criticized directly, they may feel uncomfortable. However, when the same idea is presented through humor, it becomes easier to accept. This is especially important for students. In many educational environments, students are afraid of making mistakes. Humor can change this attitude. It shows that mistakes are normal and that they can be part of the learning process.

Another important aspect is that humor improves communication. In the novel, even when characters disagree, they continue their interaction. This shows that humor can help maintain relationships and reduce conflict.

These ideas prove that humor is not only a literary element, but also a useful method for learning and communication.

Humor also reduces tension. In the novel, even when problems appear, they are presented in a simple and calm way. This helps create a positive attitude toward learning.

Another important point is that humor supports memory. People remember funny situations better than serious explanations. Because of this, humor helps readers remember ideas for a longer time. In education, this can be very useful. Students often lose interest when material is too serious. Humor can make learning more interesting and engaging. It creates a comfortable environment where students are more open to new ideas.

The novel also shows that learning happens through experience. The characters do not always change, but readers can learn by observing them. This shows that literature can be an important source of informal education.

## **5. Conclusion**

In conclusion, humor in *Three Men in a Boat* plays an important role in informal learning. It presents everyday situations in a simple and engaging way.

Through humor, readers can understand mistakes, communication, and social behavior. They can also reflect on their own actions.

The study shows that humor is not only a literary device, but also a useful educational tool. It supports natural learning and helps readers develop understanding without pressure.

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