

# *Far Side Cartoons*

## *Materials/Resources:*

Far Side Cartoons can be one of the best sources for abstract humor. The cartoons often require considerable thought and interpretation of the humor depicted. Therapists and educators can purchase Gary Larson's work through books, calendars, cards, etc., for use in their therapy lessons. The cartoons can also be viewed on the Internet by searching, *Far Side Cartoons*, under *Images* in *Google*.

## *Skills Targeted:*

- \*Personification
- \*Hyperbole
- \*Metaphors/Analogies
- \*Verbal & Written Expression
- \*Main Idea
- \*Details
- \*Reasoning
- \*Identification of Absurdities
- \*Irony

## *Instruction:*

1. Far Side Cartoons can be used as an introductory activity within the classroom setting. One cartoon per lesson is recommended and dedicate approximately 10 minutes to the activity.
2. After modeling what will be asked of the students, instruct the students to identify "what is funny" in the picture. This can evolve into a variety of lessons that would emphasize any of the skills noted above (in *Skills Targeted Box*).
3. Despite whichever skill is addressed, a complementary written activity requires the students to write a complete and grammatically correct sentence that describes the joke once the cartoon has been sufficiently discussed. Modify written expectations according to student abilities and adapt as needed.