

Silly Warning Labels

Materials/Resources:

Many warning labels on products can be redundant, obvious, or silly. Identifying the product and teaching students to correlate the cautionary statement to the product builds critical thinking skills for any student. Some of the best warnings labels are listed on the corresponding PDF form entitled, *Silly Warning Labels (List)* for reference.

Skills Targeted:

- *Vocabulary
- *Abstract Humor
- *Inferential Thinking
- *Compare & Contrast
- *Verbal Reasoning

Instruction:

1. Review with students, the general purpose of warning labels and provide familiar examples to illustrate the need for these types of labels. (e.g. safety concerns for products that are toxic). Have students generate examples that they are most familiar with and have students state why their example product label is important.
2. Introduce a conversation as to why warning labels are required (e.g. safety, consumer laws, etc.)
3. After fully discussing and ensuring understanding by students on the important need for warning labels, introduce select humorous warning labels to preface the activity.
4. As a further introductory comment to this activity, discuss with students why some warning labels can appear to be unnecessary, obvious, or silly.
5. Assign select humorous label examples to students for discussion. Provide models for the activity.
6. For each label, the particular skill/task targeted may include having the students: 1) correlate the label with the product, 2) identify the humor in the label, 3) infer/reason why the warning was developed, 4) provide an opinion regarding the need and relevancy of the label.