

Ben and the Teachers' Plot

By Silvie Senauke

Every day while young Ben sat in class,
He stared outside at the sun and the grass.
He daydreamed of the fun and the games he could play,
If only he didn't have to be in school all day.

He hated the schoolwork, he hated to learn,
Most of all he hated when Ms. Murphy was stern.
Oh she'd yell and she'd shout,
She'd grumble "don't just lie about,
You're here to do something, be someone, you know
If you daydream all day that's as far as you'll go."

But Ben stuck out his tongue—
All he wanted was fun!
She wouldn't take away
What he dreamed of all day!

He suspected the teachers would gather at night
And brainstorm a method through which they might
Suck all of the fun out of each day at school,
Oh man! He thought, Gosh were they cruel!

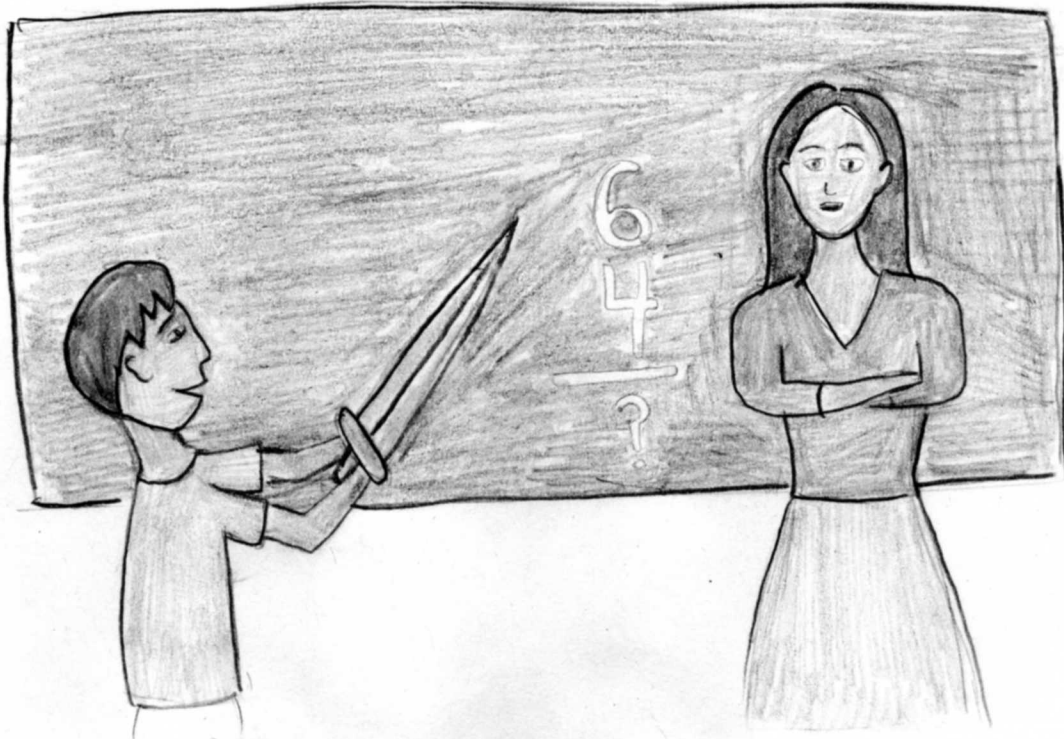


He imagined them plotting and planning with glee
At the thought of cutting down each climbing tree.
His imaginings went farther than that, to be sure.
He believed that they tested and bottled a cure
For that horrible disease, the one that they hated,
Of free thinking children! Oh he suspected they waited
Till just the right time, when they would put it in
Each student's little lunch, in its little lunch tin.

Then one day Ms. Murphy called on him with a roar
And asked him, quite evilly, "What is six plus four?"
She brought him up to the front of the room,
A long walk, he imagined, straight to his doom,
He had not a clue what to write on the board
Instead he pretended he pulled out a sword
And chopped off her arms, oh then he would win!
And he'd make each kid throw out his poisoned lunch tin.

Unfortunately, Ben had no such weapon,
He knew that none of his classmates would step in
to rescue him from Ms. Murphy the awful,
So he faked a great sneeze, *Huffapuffagalawful!*

Ms. Murphy sent him back to his seat with a sigh
She knew that his sneeze was one big fat lie.
"Ben," she told him, "you're not paying attention.
Don't you know I can give you detention?
Why must you ignore every word that I say?
I'm not letting you go out to recess today."

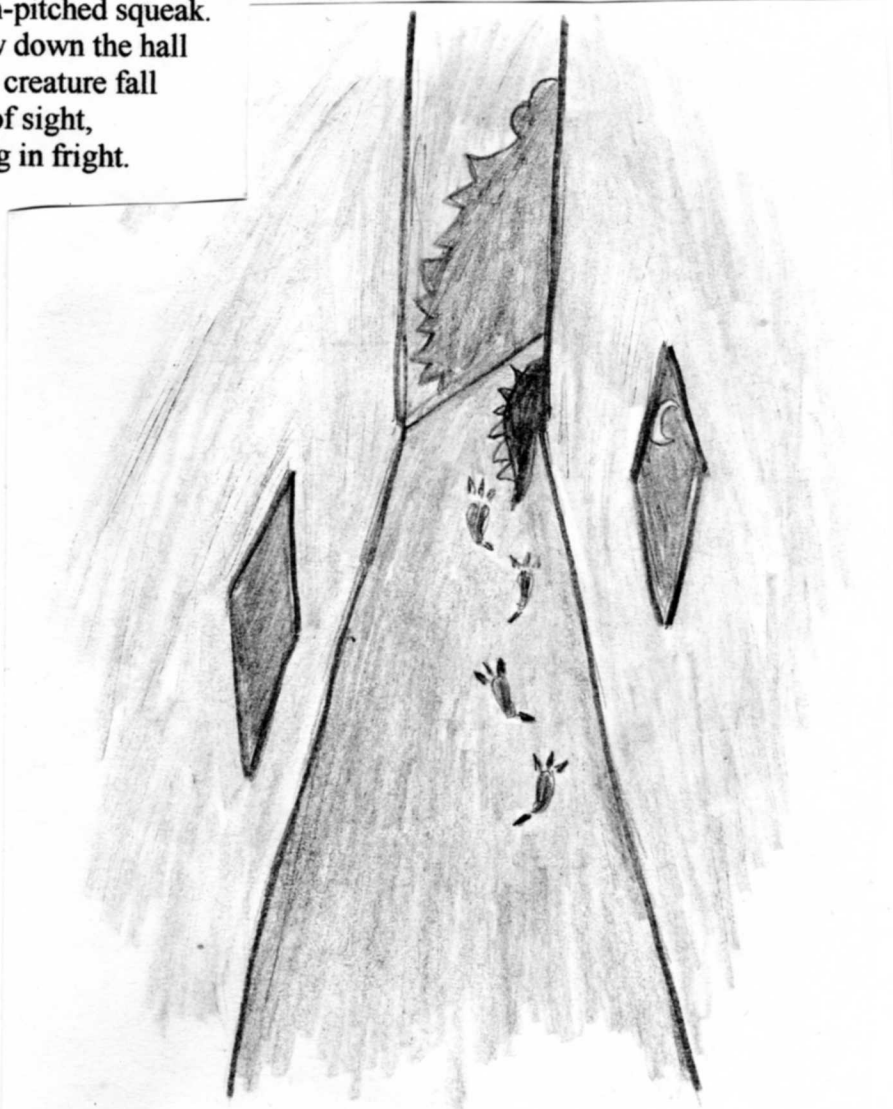


Oh woe, the unfairness, oh woe!
Oh no, Ms. Murphy, oh no!

Ben tried to argue, he tried to complain
But Ms. Murphy would not take her words back again.
So while everyone else had fun in the yard,
Ben tried to scheme up a plan, indeed he thought hard.
Then the plan hit him, knocked him out of his seat!
Oomf! went his bottom, but his plan couldn't be beat.

Later Ben snuck back inside after school,
Laughing the while at those he would fool.
He prepared to overthrow the teachers' plot,
By capturing all of them right on the spot!

Slowly the hallways began to grow dim,
Ben started to wonder if it was just him
Alone in the building, without any teachers,
Those awful, evil, horrible creatures.
Then all of a sudden Ben thought he heard a creak
Followed immediately by a high-pitched squeak.
As he rounded the corner he saw down the hall
The tail of a humongously large creature fall
Onto the ground and snake out of sight,
And poor Ben was left, shivering in fright.



Ben imagined more crashes,
And he thought he saw flashes
Of monsters with glasses
As he sped past the classes.

Ben wondered just how his plan had gone wrong,
He was supposed to catch teachers, not get stuck there so long.
And not only that, but he was being chased
By horrible monsters, the likes of which he'd never faced.
Every time that Ben turned around
He heard more footsteps thud on the ground.
He pictured the monsters cracking their knuckles.
And after they ate him they'd would undo their buckles.
He knew that monsters thought small boys a treat,
And he imagined them scarfing his small boy meat.
The monsters would be colored green, blue, and red
And Ben was sure they'd never eat something dead,
For the took delight in the torture and chase
Of any delectable members of the human race.
Ben pictured them laughing, a sound like old saws,
With their oily skin, giant boils, and sharp claws.

Ben dashed to the door and tried to get out
But the door was locked, and there was no doubt
That everybody had gone home for the night,
Leaving Ben alone, with only his fright.

Then suddenly, from far far away,
He heard a very familiar voice say
"Ben, Ben, Ben are you here?
You never came home and your parents missed you, dear."
Ben ran toward the voice, as fast as light,
And there was Ms, Murphy, the most welcome sight.
She'd brought his parents right up to the door
And seeing them all made Ben's little heart soar.

Hooray, Ms. Murphy, Hooray!
You've come to save the day!

Upon seeing her face, Ben realized at last
That instead of trying to torture him every day in the past,
Ms. Murphy only wanted to give him the best,
And he'd treated her like a total pest.

