

50+ entertaining poems for children with Shel Silverstein-like sketches.

Picture Poetry on Parade

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Where were these poems first published?

Many of these poems came from a small press run of  
*Bathroom Vacation and Other Poems*

**Here's what kids your age thought of that book:**

"I loved all of the poems because they are interesting and good."  
Niki French

"I enjoyed the book because it was funny. It's great the way it is."  
Adam Falk

"I liked the book because the poems have great endings."  
Amber Reed

"I loved all the details. And I loved it because it was funny."  
Daniel Christensen

"I love *Bathroom Vacation*. I've read it at least 3 or 4 times. I also love the illustrations, especially the 'Pencil Sharpener' one. The illustrations are grrreat!"  
Alexandra Webster

"I liked it because it was really, really funny and I like funny poems."  
Katie Green

"I liked the whole book because I liked it."  
Victoria Dunning

"I love *Bathroom Vacation*. It's fun for kids."  
Stephanie Centola

"I give *Bathroom Vacation* two thumbs up!"  
Mike Fox

"I was delighted with the illustrations that Mrs. DeLeonardis-Aman drew."  
Julia Welch

**Here's what some adults thought:**

*"Bathroom Vacation* is a fun romp in poetry. The poetry is kid-friendly. The illustrations have lots of energy. They're Shel Silverstein-like."

Nick Catalano, illustrator for the *Basil Bear* series and more

*"Bathroom Vacation* is a hot item with my readers during D.E.A.R (Drop Everything And Read) time."

Ms. Nicole Smith, reading teacher

*"Bathroom Vacation* cures school phobia! The summer my son read it he was less reluctant to go back to school."

Mrs. Karen Hall, parent

"This book offers an insightful and humorous world through the eyes of a youngster. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Mr. Jim Stocks, engineer

*"Bathroom Vacation* rates right up there with Shel Silverstein."

Mrs. Mary Uzialko, former librarian

"This book made me laugh and chuckle. It reminds me of *Where the Sidewalk Ends*. Joe Sottile has taken the magical thoughts of children and turned them into poems. And the illustrations are clever.

Mrs. Ann Flood, former teacher

*"Bathroom Vacation* is beautifully illustrated and has many humorous poems and thought-provoking poems. It certainly shows the time and effort that went into its creation."

Dr. William Dadey, former Superintendent of Schools in the Gates Chili Central School District

"Mr. Sottile's poetry brings back priceless memories! It transported me to my wonderful childhood, remembering times I thought that I forgot."

Gaye Ann Poness, parent and grandparent

**Picture Poems on Parade**

Poems by Joseph Sottile

Pictures by Lori DeLeonardis-Aman

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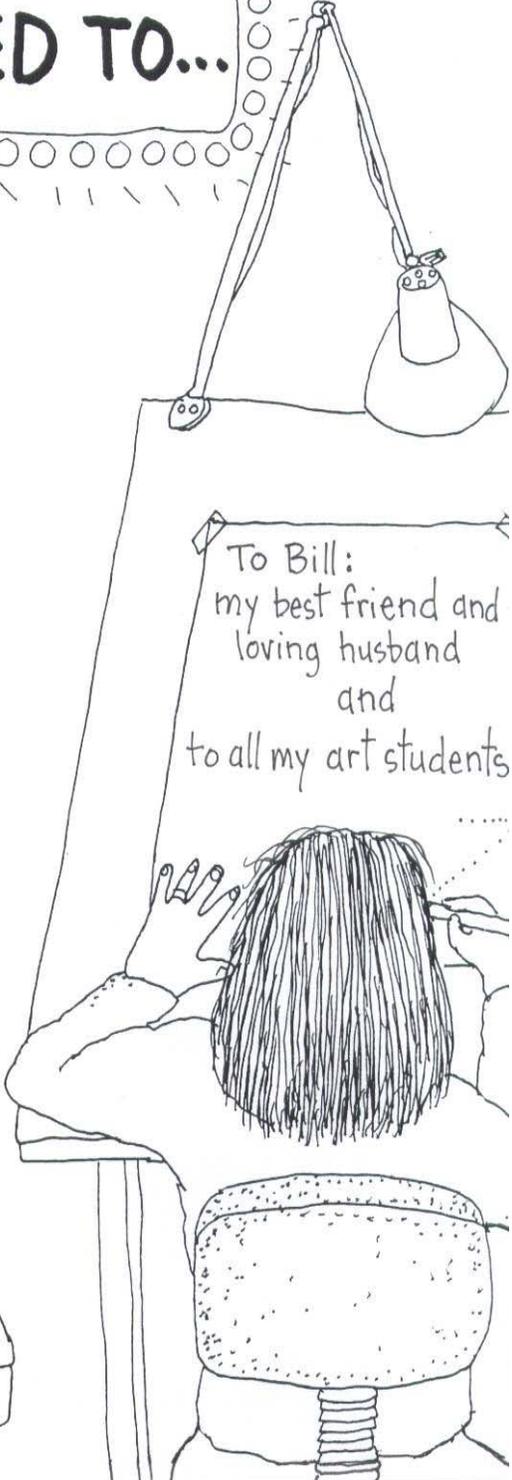
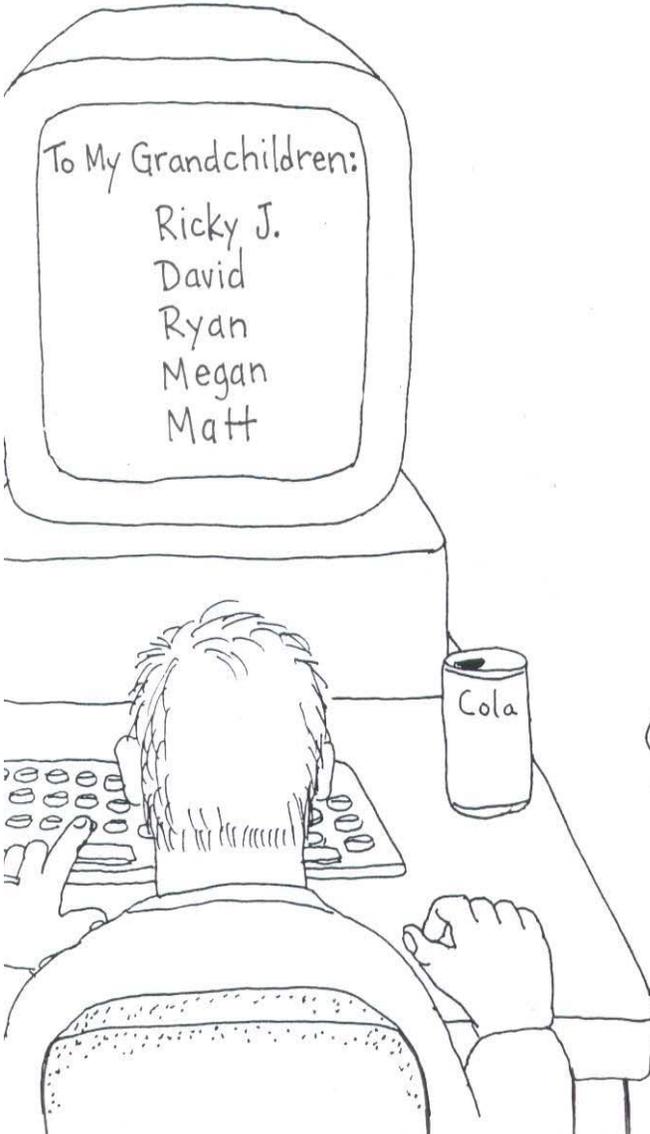
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DEDICATED TO...



## Introduction

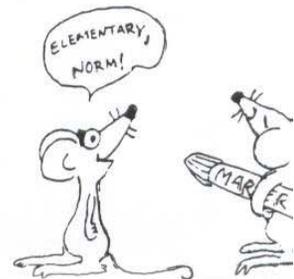
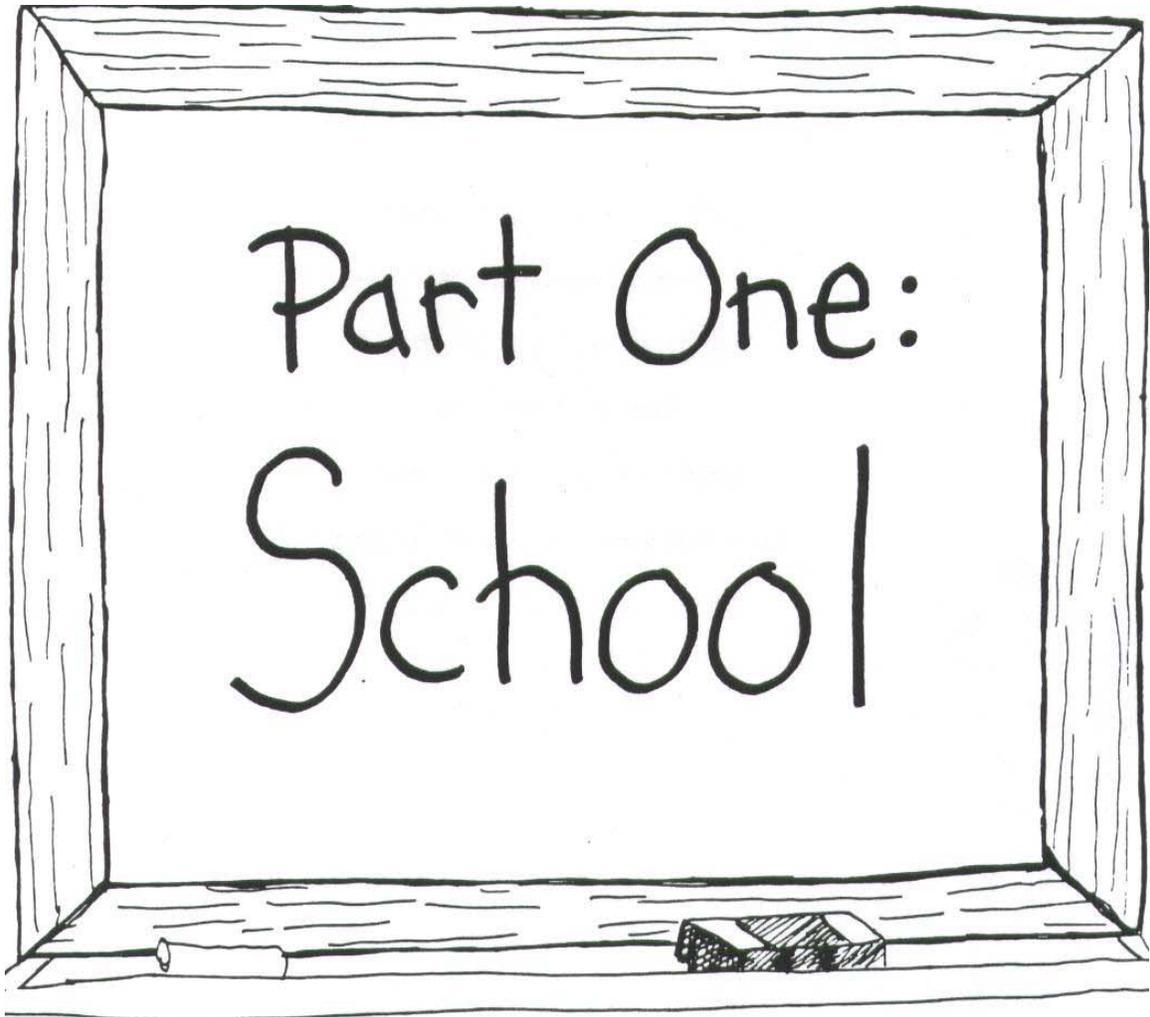
I was going to write a longer introduction, but kids don't read them. Kids just jump right in, flipping through the pages, checking out the great pictures and reading the poems—picture-poem and so on. I don't blame them. At supper, I always *save* the green peas for last. What's that you say?

You're *a kid* and you're reading this? Wow! I am impressed! You must be the exception to the rule or a very smart kid. So here's the *inside story* on your artist and author. We both used to teach at the same school in upstate New York. I loved the cartoons that Lori drew on newsletters and announcements. I could tell by the way she invited my students into her room that she loved kids and teaching. My students always came back from art class chatting excitedly about their projects. As for me, I discovered that poetry was a cool tool to encourage kids to paint pictures with words of what mattered, especially their feelings. I like to write about everyday moments in the lives of kids with a special slant. After becoming friends with Lori, we decided to do a book together. Guess what? This *isn't* the book. Fooled you!

We put together *Bathroom Vacation and Other Poems*. The book was a hit, but the title wasn't. The title was confusing. We needed a better title and *some* new poems for our second book. We combined the best poems from *Bathroom Vacation* with new poems. *They are marching your way*—kids in charge of the school; fathers that grow money; Teddy Bears that last; out of control pencil sharpeners; lunchrooms where anything can happen, and numbers that don't add up. There are kings without castles; kids that act like lawyers; mice that talk; homework that doesn't get done; wishes that might come true, and more. Mrs. DeLeonardis-Aman's class picked *Picture Poetry on Parade!* as the best title for these pictures and poems. Where are they parading? Right into your school, home, and heart, *if you invite them in*.

We would be *thrilled* to hear from you about this book. If we use your comments to encourage others to read it, we will send you a free copy. (Please let us know your age.) Enjoy life, and our parade of pictures and poems, as they open up to you. This is my home address:

Joe Sottile  
152 Brooklea Drive  
Rochester, NY 14624



## SONNY

“Sonny, you gotta go to school.”

“I never want to go back there.”

“Sonny, you gotta go to school.”

“They don’t talk to me.”

“Sonny, you gotta go to school.”

“They hide when they see me coming.”

“Sonny, you gotta go to school.”

“They don’t like me.”

“Sonny, you gotta go to school.”

“They call me nasty names.”

“Sonny, you gotta go to school.”

“They *hate* me.”

“Sonny, you gotta go to school.”

“I never want to go back there.”

“Son, you gotta go to school.  
You’re the *principal*.”





They HATE ME!

Principal  
R  
GREAT  
ADMINISTRATION

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