



THE FLIPSIDE



ASSIGNMENT: Create a classroom God.

You walk into a dark, empty classroom, remembering your notebook. The room is eerily silent, and you feel someone watching you. You look around quickly, but there's no one there. Suddenly, the door slams shut with a bang! You scoop your notebook up from the floor and get out of there as fast as you can.

You might have thought this was scary, but it was really someone trying to protect you. Everyone knows the story of Hades, Lord of the Underworld, and his beautiful mortal wife, Persephone. But not many people know about Orchid, his daughter. She's a typical rebellious teenager and spends her time on Earth trying to help mortals live as long as possible. You guessed it - she was the one who slammed that door. That's what she does. If she hadn't, something bad might have come through, like Harpiettes (they're like Harpies [winged creatures that bite] but smaller and more explosive).

She was born in the Underworld and spoiled rotten until she was about 16, when Hades decided to send her out to seek her fortune. She went to a large mountain and stayed with Hermes, her best friend, for about a week before she went home. Naturally, Hades was very upset that she hadn't wreaked some suitable havoc. There was a very large fight that caused a certain earthquake in San Francisco and ended with Orchid vowing to keep mortals from her father far beyond their time. She's the reason that the average age of mortal death has gone up so much, from an average life expectancy of 47 in 1906, the time of the earthquake, to today's life expectancy of about 78 years.

You're back in the classroom, having forgotten your other things. It's still eerily silent, but this time, there is a more comforting feel to it. The door bangs shut again, scaring you. Then you smile. "Thanks, Orchid," you say, as you find your stuff and exit.

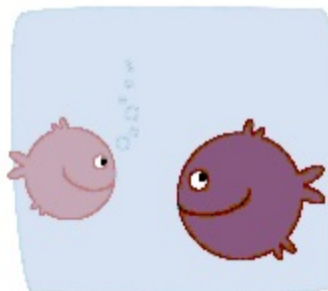
ANA COOPER
8th Grade

ASSIGNMENT: Write a poem based on a picture.

Here is a drawing, which is the first of many Of my amazing "artistic" fish drawings. I drew this when I was 5 years old. I found it when I was moving to my new house. Since then, my handwriting has improved a little, But my fish drawings have stayed the same.

In this lovely drawing are two fish Who are surprisingly happy Cause they don't have any water. I always liked the green one better Because he is the first fish I ever drew.

The day I drew that fish
Was my first day of Kindergarten.
I drew it based
On my best friend in Kindergarten.
He liked blue,
And I liked green,
So the blue fish was him,
And the green fish was me.



This is not my best picture,
But this will always be my favorite picture.
I guess my fish may not be alive,
But in my mind, they always are.
2,000 years in the future someone will say,
"Mommy, look, I drew a fish!"
My fish drawings swim through my family.

MORGAN LOPEZ
6th Grade

ASSIGNMENT: Write a poem.

(Dedicated to my babysitter, Faith, who had to leave two years ago.)

Oh, what would I do just to get Faith back.
I would hike the highest mountain,
Climb the highest tree,
Sail across the Earth,
Catch every fly and flea.



I'd hit the farthest baseball,
Push the largest rock,
Run a never-ending marathon,
Slide down the magic beanstalk,
Build a house of cards,
Ride a tricycle on a camel's back.

Yes, all of this and more I'd do
Just to get Faith back.

JONAH BRODY
6th Grade