



School Daze Rap

Woke up at eight-oh no, I overslept!
I ran for the bus, but the bus had left.
I raced to school, I really, really buzzed,
But then I forgot where my classroom was.
Finally found it, opened the door—
My teacher turned into a dinosaur!
The dinosaur roared, "Sit down at your desk!
Pick up your pencil, 'cause we're having a test!"
All the kids were staring, sitting in their rows,
I looked down and saw I'd forgotten my clothes!
The dinosaur frowned and started to shake me,
turned into my mom, who was trying to wake me.
"Hey, sleepyhead, Tommy's here to play,
Why aren't you up? It's Saturday!"

From *Lunch Money* by Carol Diggory Shields.
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Sick

"I cannot go to school today,"
Said little Peggy Ann McKay.
"I have the measles and the mumps,
A gash, a rash and purple bumps.
My mouth is wet, my throat is dry,
I'm going blind in my right eye.
My tonsils are as big as rocks,
I've counted sixteen chicken pox
And there's one more—that's seventeen,
And don't you think my face looks green?
My leg is cut, my eyes are blue—
It might be instamatic flu.
I cough and sneeze and gasp and choke,
I'm sure that my left leg is broke—
My hip hurts when I move my chin,
My belly button's caving in,
My back is wrenched, my ankle's sprained,
My 'pendix pains each time it rains.
My nose is cold, my toes are numb,
I have a sliver in my thumb.
My neck is stiff, my voice is weak,
I hardly whisper when I speak.
My tongue is filling up my mouth,
I think my hair is falling out.
My elbow's bent, my spine ain't straight,
My temperature is one-o-eight.
My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear
There is a hole inside my ear.
I have a hangnail, and my heart is—what?
What's that? What's that you say?
You say today is . . . Saturday?
G'bye, I'm going out to play!"

From *Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein.
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Dear Parents

You and your child are sure to laugh at these rib-tickling poems about school life. Please read each poem aloud at least twice, enjoying the rhyming patterns and rhythms of the two pieces.

TIP OF THE WEEK

Building Fluency Short, fun rhyming poems are ideally suited for reading over and over again, a practice that helps kids read more smoothly or fluently. Encourage your child to read these poems several times.

Identifying Theme A theme is an idea a writer is trying to express through his or her work. Ask your child to retell each poem and talk about what ideas or themes come through.

The Questions

1. Both of these poems are written in rhyming couplets. That means that each pair of lines ends with rhyming words, like "today, McKay." Find two sets of rhyming words from each poem and write them here:

"School Daze Rap"

"Sick"

_____, _____, _____, _____

_____, _____, _____, _____

2. The themes of these two poems are also similar. Think about what happens in each poem. Then use a complete sentence to explain the theme the poems share.

3. These poems are also different. Think about the events of each poem. Use a complete sentence to explain one way the two poems are different.

We have completed this assignment together.

Child's Signature

Parent's Signature