

Name: _____

Date: _____

"Warning" Poem

Warning

When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me,
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
And satin sandals, and say we've no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along the public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.

Jenny Joseph

"Warning"

When I retire from teaching
I shall arrive late, wherever I go, and keep people waiting.
I shall rustle through my binder if ANYONE tries to read me a poem.
I shall never bring a pen to an important appointment
But I'll demand the right to borrow one
Then I'll take the spring out of the pen
And throw the remains in the garbage.
I shall make weird noises when someone is trying to get my attention,
I shall stay home sick in bed if there's a test to be written,
I will rock my chair on its back legs till they break off,
And when I'm invited into the home of friends,
I'll blow on a Bic pen until it explodes
Then I'll grind the ink into their carpet
And leave spitballs on their walls.

T.Y.

Possible topics to choose from:

When I get out of school

Grow up

Grow old

Have kids

Move out

Become a teacher

Am an old man/woman

Turn nineteen

Pass English 9

Graduate

Brainstorm a list of Outrageous/Rebellious Images:

Wear

Do

Eat

Buy

- Steps:
1. Read the poem by Jenny Joseph
 2. Read the poem by T.Y.
 3. Choose which topic you will write on
 4. Brainstorm at least three ideas under each of the four headings
You might not necessarily use every one of these ideas in your poem, but it's a good warm-up activity.
 5. Write your draft
 6. Get feedback
 7. Write a good copy

When I am Short

I will ask my friend why he is so tall,
Although he surely doesn't know,
I will ask him how the weather has been,
And will pretend to laugh when he says the air is thin.

I will stand on every raised object and say,
"I'm taller than you!"
I will chase him 'round in gym class,
And curse his long legs too.

I'll threaten to cut off his legs,
So he can be down low,
But he will reply,
"I'd still be taller than you, ya know."

I will give him a dumb nickname,
Like "Daddy long-legs," or "Big Dude"
He will nickname me in turn,
To "Mini-me" or "Under-my-shoe"

You better watch out,
My comrades in the sky,
Cause this is what I'll do,
When I shrink to the size of the rest of you,
It'll be my turn to be a pest to you!

Brad Justason

Warning

Cory Bailey
E
June 10 2005

When I move out I will cook my own freaking meals
I will buy more video games
I will not tuck my shirt in
I will use the drier after all that's what I bought it For
I will not shut the damn door
I will not fold the laundry
I will use the washing machine to do the dishes
Corn will not end up on pizza
I will not leave a foot of cold water in the shower to save water for the
garden
I will rent graphic video games and movies
I will not go on vacation without myself
Candy is not for display in windows I will eat it, eat it and eat some more
I will not refer to acting like an asshole as "pushing your buttons"
And I will not rise above saying "I told you so"
Consider yourself warned

Warning

When I become a wookiee,
I shall carry time-bombs
on a black-viscose ammunition belt.
I will go barefoot
and bear-walk
wherever I choose.
I will grow my hair long
and be proud of my beard
and only shave on Wednesday.
If anyone asks,
though I doubt they will,
for loose change
I will reply with a great roar
and hand them a dollar.
My summer holidays will be spent on Kashyyyk
wading in the waters knee-deep.
I will have completely incomprehensible conversations,
with Peter,
for he will be a wookiee too.
I will buy spare parts
from suspicious winged characters...
on Tatooine.
And my best friend will be a middle-aged,
5'11",
brown haired,
hunk,
who drives much too fast,
and only pretends to know what I'm saying.