

# Things That Elementary Teachers Have to Do That Sr High Teachers Don't

*I wrote this long before I had to teach kindergarten through grade three. My opinion hasn't changed.*

Sr High teachers don't have to:

- **Wipe noses.** *Although sometimes I'd like to ...*
- **Help kids put on their snow pants and boots.** *As if Sr. High students ever wore these ...*
- **Help them print neatly.** *Wait a minute, I have to do that ...*
- **Sing.** *A blessing for all concerned.*
- **Remind the boys to do up their zippers.** *I have enough trouble remembering to do up my own. Never forgot so far. If I have, I don't want to know.*
- **Laugh at 'knock knock' jokes.** *Actually, that wouldn't be so bad. Older kids' humour tends towards bodily functions. I embarrass easily.*
- **Have a change of clothes for kids in case of 'accidents'.** *I'm not prepared ... so if it happens, DON'T COME TO ME!*
- **Share my lunch when their mother forgets to pack theirs.** *Not a chance!*
- **Comfort them when they're crying.** *I've done that, but I'm not very good at it. Little kids cry a lot. Sr. High students only cry when I collect homework.*
- **Make sure they eat their lunch.** *Sr. High students eat all the time. No worries there.*
- **Eat lunch with them.** *Lunch? Who has time for lunch!?*
- **Playground supervision.** *I had to do that for a month last year. I got in trouble lots from Allison because I didn't know the rules. They're very complicated. Logarithms are simpler.*
- **Help them find their pencil.** *Grade ones and grade eights seem to share this problem.*
- **Tie shoelaces.** *Still a problem, apparently. High school students are just too cool for this.*