

A Graduation Poem for Two

By Stephanie Klose

I am a teacher

Twenty years my trade
Seven classrooms

Seven hundred children

Have touched my life.
Every day I come
My choice, my call

I'm glad I'm here

I come to teach

I come to earn a paycheck
I come to be with my friends

I work very hard

Lesson plans, forms and more forms

I have to correct so many papers

When do I have time for my personal life?

I HATE HOMEWORK!

I love my students

Sometimes I think the kids hate me

Sometimes they make me so mad

Like when it's only been ten minutes since
lunch and they ask to go to the restroom.

or when they won't talk
or when they won't stop talking

I am a student

Fourteen classrooms

Fourteen teachers

Have touched my life.
Every day I come

They make me

I'm glad I'm here.

I come to learn

I come to earn my diploma
I come to be with my friends

They make me work hard

Projects, exams, oral reports

I have to write so many papers

When do I have time for my personal
life?

I HATE HOMEWORK!

My teachers hate me

Most of my teachers are pretty cool

Sometimes they make me so mad

Well, they won't let us talk
I write about what's important to me!
(silence)

(glare)

They can make me laugh

They help me stay young

New music

New slang

I try to challenge them

Challenge their perceptions of the world
and themselves

I try to keep them on their toes

Sometimes I'm so proud of them

They work hard

They rise to my challenge

They succeed

I feel so proud

All seven hundred have moved on

I worry about them when they go

I hope I've provided them each with a little
something that will make the way smoother

And I am often reassured
as I grow to know my students each year
because invariably I find something
uniquely wonderful and special in each one

This gives me hope

Because

They are the future

It's like they don't think we have a life
and we should just be able to stop
talking when the bell rings.

I like to play

I like to joke and mess around

"School sucks."

They challenge me

I challenge them back

I try to keep them on their toes

Sometimes I get good grades

I work hard

I succeed

I feel so proud

It's time to move on

It's kind of scary

And exciting

Because

I am the future.