

Opening Story, Unit 4: Kids and School

While taking a routine vandalism report at an elementary school, I was interrupted by a little girl about 6 years old. Looking up and down at my uniform, she asked, 'Are you a cop? Yes,' I answered and continued writing the report. My mother said if I ever needed help, I should ask the police. Is that right?' 'Yes, that's right,' I told her. 'Well, then,' she said as she extended her foot toward me, 'would you please tie my shoe?'

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. 'I'm just wasting my time,' she said to her mother. 'I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk!'

On the first day of school, a first grader handed his teacher a note from his mother. It read, 'The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents.'

A teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work. As she got to little Sarah who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. Sarah replied, 'I'm drawing God.' The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.' Sarah replied, 'They will in a minute.'

We can all remember when our kids were little and their first years of school. The stories they told! Children do not always want to go to school. When they were younger, it was easier for parents to force the issue. When children become teenagers, getting them to school when they refuse to go presents new challenges. In the U.S., over one million children drop out of school every year. Some of these children will return to complete high school. Others will not.