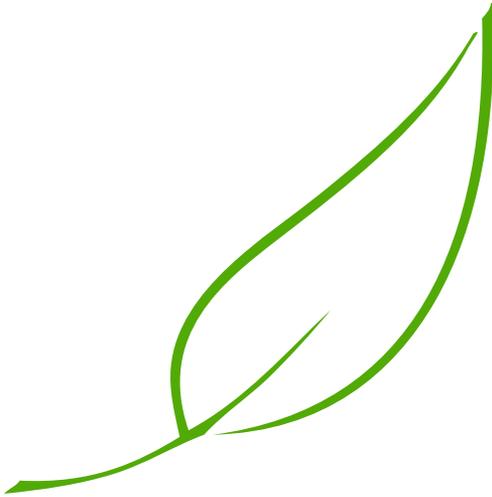


THE T-K

by Ken Bradbury



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Okay, rule number one when your mother is a teacher: Don't tell anybody. Of course, this never works because the whole school will find out as soon as they hear your last name, but at least for the first few minutes of every school year, you're a free man.

Do you know what it's like to have your own mother assign two hours of homework to your class then have them all turn around and stare at you like somehow it's all your fault? "Look guys, I was just born her son. I take no responsibility for anything else!" Geesh. It's like you walk around all day with a big T-K tattooed to your forehead. "Teacher's Kid!"

Your Mom will walk into class and the whole place is goin' nuts. Look, we're seventh-graders ... that's our job, okay? Carlin will be on the ground wrestling with Andrew while Cody is busy punching Craig in the back, while Amanda is telling this really loud story to Amber while Darren is carrying on a conversation with the blackboard. Book bags are being kicked around the class, hitting poor Adam in the back of the head and causing him to fall into Chelsea's lap while the whole class laughs about how they must be in love. This of course causes Chelsea to have a hissy fit and she hits the first person she sees which just happens to be me who was just sitting there minding my own business. Chelsea has a really good right hand for a girl and her whack knocks me onto the floor and I go scooting right down the center aisle. That's when I look up into the fiery eyes of my mother the teacher who shouts, "John Daniel! Look what you've done!"

"But Mom ... !"

"Sit down! We'll talk about this when we get home!"

No other kid in the class has to hear that ... "We'll talk about it when we get home."

Face it, when you guys get in trouble with a teacher, it only lasts until the bell rings. When I get in hot water, it lasts all the through school, all the way home, through supper ... and



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