

GROUNDLED

by Ken Bradbury



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Okay, how do you spell “miserable”? G-R-O-U-N-D-E-D! Grounded!

Yeh, I’m grounded, you wanna make somethin’ of it? One “D”! One lousy little “D”! Now, don’t tell me you’ve never gotten one! And look, what’s the big deal about Social Studies anyway? I mean, is it really all that important that Japan is east of Afghanistan? I mean, unless you get lost driving.

Okay, so I forgot to study for the test ... okay, it was two tests. And maybe I forgot an assignment or two ... well, three at the most. Sure, I’ll admit that copying my research paper right off the Internet Page of the Discovery Channel wasn’t too smart. I should have left out the commercials. I think that’s what got me.

I can still remember the night the report card came home. They sent it in an unmarked envelope and I didn’t catch it in the mail.

“Gee whiz, Mom! It’s just one grade! You don’t have to ground me for a month! What? No telephone? And only two hours of television a night? Mom, that’s my education! Really! No, I know they don’t give tests on “The Simpsons,” but how am I gonna know what the other kids are talking about if I don’t watch ... Yeh, Mom. I heard you Mom. No, I don’t want to wait until Dad gets home. He hates ‘The Simpsons’.”



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