

Maddie Westmoreland, 5th grade, Lewis-Palmer Elementary School

“An Unexpected Challenge” by Maddie Westmoreland

I'm sitting there so quietly,
In the stuffy old classroom.
All the kids are sitting at their desks,
filled with boredom and gloom

I think I know the answer,
I quickly raise my hand,
But what if I'm not good enough
For reasons I can't understand.

I think about it some more,
What if my answer is wrong?
The kid in my class would laugh at me
All day long.

The next question comes up
I think I know it too!
But I sit there, stiffly
not knowing what to do.

The teacher calls on me
I quickly shake my head.
The day I get an answer wrong
Is a day I will always dread.

The kids in the back row start snickering.

“She doesn’t know the answer”

one girl says

And it really stings.

Then I have the urge to prove myself

too show I can get it right.

The next question comes up

And I raise my hand with might.

“Yes,” my teacher calls

A smile spreads across her face

Take your time dear

You know it’s not a race.

Seven times six is forty two

I say boldly with glee.

All the kids turn around

And start staring at me.

“Excellent” cries my teacher

“Amazing that’s great”

I got the answer right

And there’s no debate.