

# Get Out of the Alphabet Number 2

Wacky Wednesday Puzzle Poems

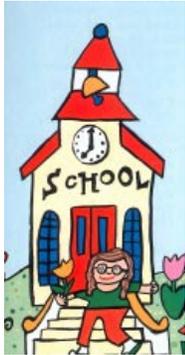
**By Kalli Dakos**

**Comments By the Author**



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# Get Out of the Alphabet, Number Two



## Wacky Wednesday Puzzle Poems

by Kalli Dakos



## Comments by the Author

**I**'ve had a great time writing wacky poems. In fact, at one point, I couldn't stop writing them. Everywhere I went I saw poetry. One day I was at the doctor's office and a poem popped into my head. Another day, I was in a grocery store, looking at signs when another poem popped into my head. I'd go to sleep with wacky poems in my head, and I'd wake up with new ones ready to write.

I hope you will encourage your students to write wacky poems too. Not only is it a lot of fun, but it encourages the use of the imagination, and brings joy to both reading and writing.

### Wacky Wednesday

- why does Susie decide to change the alphabet?
- why is Richard wearing his dad's underwear *over* his pants?
- does Mrs. Churn like the idea of writing wacky poems?

- the pictures remind me of coloring book pictures
- children have to look carefully at all the pictures in this book in order to discover the wacky parts

### Get Out of the Alphabet, Number 2

- why are the letters yelling at the number 2?
- can you create a wacky alphabet poem?
- how about a wacky number poem?

-teachers can point out briefly that this is a quatrain (poem with four lines) and that lines two and four rhyme (two/you)

### **Naughty Number Four**

- what is number four doing in this poem?
- the illustrator's name is Jenny Graham and she drew a girl who is upside down for this poem.
- why do you think she did this?

### **Be Happy**

- why are A and Z fighting in this poem?
- who tries to make them friends?
- is A better than Z or is Z better than A?
- how many letters are in the alphabet?
- this poem has four stanzas -- that means the poem is divided into four sections with a big space between each section
- each stanza has four lines
- in this poem two of the lines in each stanza rhyme -- lines two and four
- do you think any other letters in the alphabet think they are the best?

### **Wish We Were You**

- why do the letters in the alphabet sometimes wish they were the letter "A"?
- how many A's do you see in the picture -- three on the apples
  - three on the girl's crown
  - two on the paper she is holding

### **Stop Talking Please**

- two of the 3's are facing backwards so they can talk with the other 3's
- are the girls talking on this page too?
- what would other numbers look like if they were talking and had to face backwards?
- I like the sounds of "threes" and "please" and used them for rhyme in this poem

### **Upside Down**

- if we turn the P right side up, what letter will he be
- why did the illustrator make the boy upside down too?

### **A Lot Like You**

- the birds at the top of the page hold the key to this poem
- the triangle wants to be in the alphabet because he looks a little like the letters on the other birds, A, B and C
- the children could make up another symbol that would like to be in the alphabet

### **Cute Little Dot**

-the letter "i" and the letter "r" are having a conversation  
-does the "i" like his dot?

-does the "r" like the dot?

-look carefully on the page and you will see an "r" with a dot

-why would the illustrator make a dog with dots all over it and a girl with

polka dots on her dress (to go with the dot poem)

-there are even dots on the flowers

-each child could write his name and give every letter his very own dot



### **How Did You Forget?**

-the clue to this poem is in the alphabet at the top of this page

-one of the letters has been forgotten and the children have to discover which letter it is (the letter O)

-one of the clues is the three "Ohs" in the poem

-children could create their own alphabets with missing letters

-how does the "o" feel to be forgotten?

-have *you* ever been forgotten?

### **Capital "I" Asks Capital "S" a Question**

-why does the "I" not like himself very much

-what is a perm?

-how did the "S" get so curly?

-look at the pictures and see if you can find straight letters and curly letters

-what letter does the mermaid look like?

### **I Don't Want To Be**

-this is my favorite poem in this book to act out

-I have a big construction paper "P" and a big "Z", a picture of peas, and a pillow

-another teacher and I act out this poem for the children

-I tell them that the letter "P" has just discovered that he is associated with toilets and bathrooms, and he does not want to be the letter "P" anymore

-the letter "Z" is his friend and is trying to make him feel better

-the children will enjoy acting out this poem too

-you can point out that this poem has six stanzas and that lines two and four rhyme in each stanza

### **Still Powerful**

-it doesn't matter how big a letter is because it says the same thing

-children can write tiny, tiny letters or big mammoth ones, and they still mean the same thing!

### **Naughty Number Nine on the Way to Lunch**

- the numbers are going to lunch and number 9 is being very naughty -- what is he doing?
- you can point out the little feet on the numbers and ask children if they think Jenny Graham had fun creating them
- they could try and write a naughty number poem too

### **Get Out of the Clock**

- who shouldn't be in the clock?
- who is yelling at them?

### **I'm in the Wrong Line**

- see if children can find the number that is in the wrong line
- how do you think he got in the wrong line?
- does he really look like a fool
- there are two stanzas in this poem and in each stanza lines two and four rhyme
- question poem -- this poem asks a question and students might want to write their own question poem

### **You're Always Late**

- what number is always late for school?
- some poems are very long while others are very short
- this poem is one of the shortest poems I have ever written -- it has only two lines
- read the numbers in order with the late number eight

### **Shoving in Line**

- children love to read the alphabet with the letters all mixed-up
- they could try writing their own mixed-up alphabets
- some of the letters like B, G and V rhyme
- see if the children can discover any other letters that rhyme with these
- look at the illustrations - are any shoes the same or did Jenny Graham draw all different shoes on the letters?

### **I Don't Like You**

- this poem is based on a true story that a child told me -- when he was little he was stung by a bee, and from that day on, he *refused* to have the letter B in his alphabet
- whenever anyone asked him to recite the alphabet, he would say "A C D E F, etc."
- the alphabet at the top of the page is missing the letter "B"

### **12345 onetwothreefourfive**

- the letters are suppose to be stuck together in this poem
- the words are also stuck together
- this poem is a rhyming couplet -- two lines that rhyme - glue/do

### **We're Brand New**

- the key to this poem is in the alphabet at the top of the page
- look carefully at the little bottles and you will see some shapes that are brand new and want to be in the alphabet too - lollipop, strawberry, flower
- students might want to create new letters and numbers of their own

### **Like U**

- children can act out parts in these poems
- they can make signs and have upper and lower case letters talking to each other
- children might want to look at other letters of the alphabet too

### **On the Way to Gym**

- what is number nine doing on the way to gym?
- why do you think he is behaving like this?

### **Don't Pick Me**

- one letter in the alphabet does not want to be picked
- there is also a clue in the picture
- Poetic License - the word "Pleeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeease" is made very long for emphasis

### **Y?**

- students can act out this poem too
- why does the "P" not want to play with the "Y"?
- what special letters are "a, e, i, o and u"?

### **Let's Have a Party**

- the letters invite the numbers to a party, but someone comes who is NOT invited
- who is it? (the question mark beside the cake)
- this poem asks a question that children could try and answer
- should the question mark have gone to the party even though he was not invited?

### **Last in the Game**

- children can figure out where they are in the alphabet game with both first and last names

-would it be difficult to have a name that begins with "Z" and to always be last?

**Time to Return to Normal**

-Mrs. Churn tries to return the alphabet and the numbers to normal, but she makes a big mistake

-what is the mistake?

-why is it funny?