

## You Can Always Expect

(from *32 Third Graders and One Class Bunny* by Phillip Done)

*The following are things you can expect from kids:*

They will always grab the shortest pencil in the pencil box because it is more fun to write with a pencil that is one inch long. But they will always pick the largest pair of scissors from the scissor box because it is more fun to cut with the big scissors.

If you pass out three Cheerios to each child, but one Cheerio is stuck to another Cheerio so that one child accidentally gets four Cheerios, the child sitting next to the kid who got four Cheerios will scream, "That's not fair!"

If it is the teacher's birthday, they will guess that you are older than you are. When they bring you the yardstick in two pieces, one will say, "It just broke." When they are sitting in front of the overhead projector and you are tracing their silhouettes with white crayon onto black construction paper for a Mother's Day gift and tell them to sit perfectly still, they will move.

When the prince kisses Snow White, someone will say, "Yuck!" When the prince kisses Cinderella, someone will say "Yuck!" When it is time for division, they will say "Yuck," too.

When they are coloring in class, someone will start to hum. While riding in the bus on a field trip, someone will start to sing.

When you point to a paper on the floor and ask, "Whose is this?" no one will answer. When you say, "Pick this up," they will say, "It's not mine."

When they sit on the carpet to hear a story, they will play with their shoelaces and fingernails as if they have never seen shoelaces or fingernails before.

When you read the story, they will dig for staples in the carpet. When they find a staple they will hand it to you as if you've been searching for it. When you show everyone the picture in the book, someone will say, "I can't see."

In the middle of a spelling test, someone will ask, "How many words are there?" After you tell them how many words there are, someone will ask, "How many words are there?"

Right before they jump off the jungle gym, they will shout, "Look!" When they are hanging upside down on the monkey bars, they will wave and call your name.

If they eat red hot candy, they will stick out their tongue and ask you if their tongue is red. When you give them orange slices, they will put the whole slice in their mouth and smile really big so you can see their new orange teeth.

If there is a beanbag chair in the room, someone will dive on it. If there is a beanbag chair in the room tomorrow, he will jump on it again.

When you make green or red paper chains in December, and each child only gets ten strips of paper, they will connect all their chains to make the longest chain ever made.

When you say, "I have eyes behind my head," they will ask you to tell them what is behind you. When you say, "Give me one second," they will count to one.

If there's a swing, they will stand on it. If there's a slide, they will run up it. If there's a fence, they will kick the ball over it.

When there is an exit sign on the ceiling in the hall, they will jump to hit it.

If the windows are foggy, they will trace their names on them. If your car is dirty, they will write, "Clean Me!" on the back window.

When you tell them to go look up a word in a dictionary, they will come back and tell you that the word is not there.

If you walk toward them with mistletoe, they will run. When they make valentines, they will sign them "from." When they eat their hollow chocolate Easter bunnies, they will always bite the ears off first.

They will always leave the last e out of sincerely and the d out of Wednesday. They will spell sure with an h, and the second letter in improvement will be an n.

When you give them a measuring tape, they will pull it out all the way so that it won't go back again. When they lean against the broom closet so you can measure their heights, they will stand on tiptoe.

When you drive behind the school bus on the way home, they will wave to you and make faces. If you wave and make faces too, they will laugh and keep waving and making faces as long as you drive behind the bus.

When to get to school the next morning, they will run up to you and say they saw you driving behind the school bus yesterday as if you didn't know it was you behind them.

They will say "cinnamon" when it is "synonym." They will write as small as they can, and when you say, "It's too small. I can't read it," they will read it out loud to you.

If you act out Peter and the Wolf, all the boys will want to be Peter. If you act out Hansel and Gretel, all the girls will want to be Gretel. If you act out Snow White and the seven Dwarfs, the whole class will want to be Dopey.

If there is both an electric pencil sharpener and a manual one in the room, they will always choose the electric sharpener, and then grind the pencil down so far that they have to sharpen another one.

On the last day of school, one of the kids will cry. On the last day of school, so will I.