

HOW-TO

POEMS

How to Get Out of Homework Conrad, grade 6

I'm feeling sick
Look at what the dog's doing
Five more minutes
That's a beautiful necklace
Oh, just a little longer
But, I just reached dark castle
and I can't stop now
There's a bomb in my bedroom
There's a killer outside
The baby's sick
But this book is stretching my mind
in ways homework can't
I'm feeling sleepy
I might wake the baby
I just heard a gun shot
Was that the phone?
After dinner
The cat's outside
So is the dog
I'm hungry
I don't feel like it

How To Make a Snow Angel

Go alone or with a best friend.
Find a patch of unbroken snow.

Walk on tiptoes. Step backwards
Into your very last footprints.

Slowly sit back onto the snow,
Absolutely do not use your hands.

By now you should be lying flat
With snow fitting snug around you.

Let your eyes drink some blue sky.
Close them. Breathe normally.

Move your arms back and forth.
Concentrate. Think: snow angel.

In a minute don't be surprised
If you start feeling a little funny.

Both big and small. Warm and cold.
Your breath light as a snowflake.

Sweep your legs back and forth
But keep both eyes tightly closed.

Keep moving the arms until they
Lift, tremble, wobble or float.

Stand without using your hands.
Take time to get your balance.

Take three deep breaths.
Open your eyes.

Stretch. Float. Fly!

-Ralph Fletcher

