

Attention to Details

(Speaker) "I cannot go to school today," Said little Peggy Ann McKay. "I have the measles and the mumps, A gash, a rash and purple bumps. My mouth is wet, my throat is dry, I'm going blind in my right eye. My tonsils are as big as rocks, I've counted sixteen chicken pox And there's one more--that's seventeen, And don't you think my face looks green? My leg is cut--my eyes are blue-- It might be instamatic flu. I cough and sneeze and gasp and choke, I'm sure that my left leg is broke-- My hip hurts when I move my chin, My belly button's caving in, My back is wrenched, my ankle's sprained, My 'pendix pains each time it rains. My nose is cold, my toes are numb. I have a sliver in my thumb. My neck is stiff, my voice is weak, I hardly whisper when I speak. My tongue is filling up my mouth, I think my hair is falling out. My elbow's bent, my spine ain't straight, My temperature is one-o-eight. My brain is shrunk, I cannot hear, There is a hole inside my ear. I have a hangnail, and my heart is--what? What's that? What's that you say? You say today is. . .Saturday? G'bye, I'm going out to play!"

Shel Silverstein, (1999) Sick, retrieved from

<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/anthology/7th-grade-poetry-online>

Thoughts for the Teacher

This poem will brighten up your day; it puts a smile on your face and makes your laugh. I

suggest having a very enthusiastic student read this poem because it only has one speaker. If a student reads in with excitement then it will drive the point home. It contains

an important lesson about paying attention to the little details. Reading though the instructions on standardized tests is extremely important and can make or break some

test.