

Virtual Maniac

Silly and Serious Poems for Kids

by **Margriet Ruurs**

Illustrated by **Eve Tanselle**

Virtual Maniac
Silly and Serious Poems for Kids
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Contents

Words in My Head.....	1
Virtual Maniac	2
Green	4
Yellow.....	5
Owls in the Woods.....	6
Unique	8
Gotta Go!.....	9
Argillaceous.....	10
Down Hill.....	11
Cat Love.....	12
Crushed.....	13
The Truth About Bruce.....	14
Kleena Kleene	16
Polkas and Perogies.....	17
Anna-Belle-Lou	18
Armadillo	20
By the Light of the Moon	21
Old Growth Kleenex.....	22
Dragons in the Sky.....	23
School Sick.....	24
Big Bullies.....	25
Rainbow Rock.....	26
Campfire Time	27
If I Were the Teacher	28

A Piece of History	30
Singing	31
Marcus P. Pringle	32
Fall Feelings	36
Freedom of Thought	37
Remembering.....	38
Winter Weather.....	39
Phone Poem	40
Puppy Love.....	41
Brother	42
Stagefright	43
Traveling	44
Moose Meadow	46
Knight Time	47
Yuck!.....	48
Smelly Poem	49
My Face!.....	50
Mouse Mousse.....	51
Wishful Spider	52
Cookies.....	54
The Ocean.....	55
Treasure Chest	56

Words in My Head

Words are walking through my head
as I lie in bed
waiting for sleep,
the words leap,
march, stumble,
play hide and seek.

Sometimes the words walk
in sentences,
making stories as they stalk
through my head.

I try to close the tap
but the words just flow,
in line they step
and just won't go.

I wait for dreams.
Then, when I wake,
the stories scatter here and there
and I can't find them anywhere.

I try to make
the words walk back and forth,
leaving footprints in my brain
so I will find them back again.





Virtual Maniac

A strange thing happened to me!
I'm not sure how, but you see
my mom rented me a video game...
Since then I haven't been the same.

We rented it just for one day.
I thought it was awesome, yelled, "Hurray!"
I chose cool games that looked all right,
with race cars, swords and a black knight.

I carried the machine home and into my room...
It instantly changed into a temple of doom!
I switched on machine and TV
and a strange thing happened to me.

I changed! From a nice kid into a blob!
My thumbs could only push each little knob,
my eyes were fixed onto the screen,
I looked like the fenziest frantic that you've ever seen!

Just sat there punching, transfixed,
moving little men, boxes and sticks.
I didn't eat or drink or go to the loo...
It was weird. Did it ever happen to you?

Sometimes I yelled, "No!" or screamed, "Hey!"
My mom came running to see if I was okay.
My ears heard only bleep-bleep-bleep.
I didn't even take time out to sleep!

The controls seemed glued to my hands
as I pushed the video game's commands.
I forgot what time it was, what day.
All I did was sit and push "play."

Then all of a sudden, I came back to life.
It happened the next day, just before five.
My mom pulled the plug! I couldn't play anymore,
The machine had to go back to the store!

