

## **A Teacher's Lament**

BY KALLI DAKOS

Don't tell me the cat ate your math sheet,  
And your spelling words went down the drain,  
And you couldn't decipher your homework,  
Because it was soaked in the rain.

Don't tell me you slaved for hours  
On the project that's due today,  
And you would have had it finished  
If your snake hadn't run away.

Don't tell me you lost your eraser,  
And your worksheets and pencils, too,  
And your papers are stuck together  
With a great big glob of glue.

I'm tired of all your excuses;  
They are really a terrible bore.  
Besides, I forgot my own work,  
At home in my study drawer.

**Try reading the poem out loud.**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS POEM – ASK YOUR OWN TOO!**

1. What do you think the poet wants to say? How does she 'tell it slant'? Can a humorous piece like this be 'slant' at all?
2. The piece is written in ballad form, with a regular metre and rhyming scheme. Do you think this adds to the humour? Could a serious piece be written like this?
3. What are the details that make this vivid? How does she use exaggeration?
4. Producing enlightenment as hard work?