

How the Grinch Stole Education

(With apologies to Dr. Seuss)

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Kids in Ontario
Like their teachers a lot.
But the Grinch
Who lived way up in North Bay
Did not

The Grinch hated teachers, no matter what season.
Now please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason.

It could be his head wasn't screwed on just right.
It could be, perhaps he just liked to fight.
But I think that the most likely reason of all,
May have been that his heart was 10 size too small.

But,
Whatever the reason,
His heart or his mind.
He knew that he needed to hurry and find
The money to pay for reductions in tax,
Even though his economists told him these facts.
To do such a thing would not make a difference,
And in times such as this did not really make sense.

He had already taken huge amounts from health care
And mothers and children found their cupboards were bare.
But he wanted to win the coming election
And the only thing left was to gut Education.

"I'll go after the teachers," he snarled with a sneer.
"They need to work harder in that easy career.
Never mind that I quit 'cause it was too tough
Preferring to hit balls into the rough.
I couldn't keep teaching without a degree
And those university courses were too hard for me"

While counting his money he got from his pension,
He said, "These teachers are causing me tension.

I'll take several million and stop all their fun,
Replacing each old teacher with an unqualified one."

From his perch at Queen's Park he spotted teachers on prep time,
And their many vacations he felt were a crime.
And although he'd already taken many millions out,
"There's still more fat there, of that there's no doubt."
Because all of the teachers kept doing their best
He made up his mind he'd go for the rest.
The trustees had dealt with his previous downsize
With no other choice but an increase in class size.
Forced to continue to raise local tax more,
As increasing costs of education they bore.

Then he got an idea.
An awful idea!
The Grinch got a wonderful,
Awful idea.

All I need is a dupe.
The Grinch look around,
And in Harris' party one was easily found!
He told his new henchman
What he knew must be said,
"If you can't find a crisis, just create one instead!"

He directed Snobelen,
Who quit at grade eleven,
"Just say children aren't learning compared to their peers,
This way we can increase all parental fears!
Test on untaught curriculum,
And prove they are dumb.
And compare them with students, where only the best
Are chosen to attempt to compete on this test.
A bill like 160 we can use to mislead,
As we slash education to get what we need!"

HIGHLIGHTS



Then
They loaded some bags
And some old empty sacks.
To go get some money
To replace all that tax!
They went to the first school, saw a class of JK.
He patted their heads and he sent them away.
He said, "Go on home, from your mommies you'll learn.
Education at your age is not our concern."

Then a Special Ed class where numbers were low,
"These classes," he grinned, "are the next thing to go!"
He slithered and slunk with a smile most unkind,
Looking for any excess fat he could find.
Librarians, gym teachers, music and art,
he loaded them into his sturdy golf cart.
Resource, adult learners and of course ESL,
All of these programs can be chopped as well.
To ensure that more kids spend more time with each teacher,
A longer school day and year we will feature!
And although it does not seem to follow this trend,
We'll cut out the OAC year at the end".

He even grabbed pencils and papers and books,
Nothing of value did he overlook.
He stuffed everything into his golf cart with glee
And turning around a small child did he see.
She stared at the Grinch, then she said to him, "Why,
Why are you taking our resources, why?"
But you know that old Grinch was so smart and so slick
He thought up some lies and he thought them up quick.
"Why my sweet little tot," the Grinch premier lied,
"On TV tonight you'll see I'm on your side.

If I clean out these schools," explained the old liar,
"I know that improvements can only transpire."

Then he did the same thing
To all schools in the province,
Telling the public
"This is all common sense!"
But thinking, by the time they wake up to what this bill can do
Their mouths will hang open a minute or two.
Then parents and teachers will all cry "boo-hoo!"
Because they will surely not know what to do.
Who cares if they rally with chanting and signs
If they dare leave their classrooms, we'll hit them with fines!
I'll get rid of Snobelen, they know he's a fool,
Dave Johnson's the one who can keep them in school!"

As he turned around his cart and was starting to leave,
His ears heard a sound that he couldn't believe.
Every teacher in Ontario, the tall and the small,
Was talking of walking with no paycheck at all!
They knew that their students would all understand
That for what you believe in you must take a stand.
And what happened then . . . !
We really can't say
If the Grinch's heart shrunk or grew bigger that day.
But one thing for sure has come through loud and clear,
you won't hear the truth from our scheming Premier.
And most of Ontario became more aware,
That the Province's teachers really do care!

