

# Slow Learner

by Sue Looyenga

*The poem "Slow Learner" was contributed by Sue Terpstra Looyenga, a former student in the Protestant Reformed Christian Schools. Sue wrote this poem as an expression of her feelings for a child whom she was tutoring. Sue writes: "Never have I witnessed such patient diligence in a child who must struggle daily to make a hardly passable grade." Sue graduated from Covenant Christian High School in 1972. She has attended Grand Valley State College and has attended banking school. She is the wife of David Looyenga, and a mother of three. (Reprinted from Perspectives, March, 1976.)*

You sit beside me, and your pen is poised.  
Your face, a study in determination,  
Turns to me, searching for an answer.  
And I, — I am amazed at this young determination.

Time and again you have known failure,  
And tried once more, and failed again.  
And still you will not bury that small talent.  
I marvel at your will to try again.

You count your gains, content, in inches,  
While others count them mile by mile.  
And how you beam upon "just passing,"  
And winning Teacher's special smile.

How many times in anger you could find me,  
Disturbed that I again had failed to make  
A big success of some small undertaking.  
Oh, what a lesson I from you could take!

Would that I had your faith and patience  
That discontent could not within me rise!  
But, child, I am the slowest learner  
When it comes to being wise.

1976

• •