

The Art Lesson
by Phyllis Papineau

Recently, I received the cutest story about an elementary school child's story for Show and Tell. It demonstrated the innocence and wisdom of a little girl about the birth of her baby brother. Her story was called the "middle wife" (midwife).

It reminded me of an experience I had during my practicum in an elementary school in Calgary. I was somewhat terrified of my practicum teacher who appeared very old and rigid to my youthful 20 year old self. She was probably in her early 40s.

After I finished my lesson on our body and how we breathe, I moved on to an art lesson. I showed them how to draw the human form and suggested they draw me.

I sat patiently at the front of the class but got increasingly nervous as I watched the youngster in front of me. Her drawing of me had what looked like two huge breasts on my chest. When my practicum teacher approached the little girl, her back arched, she said, "What have you got here?" as she pointed to the two large circles on her drawing.

The little girl replied, "Why, miss, those are Miss Johnstone's lungs." Out of the mouths of babes!