

Two Poems

by [Gale Acuff](#) (January 2023)



Classroom Scene, William Henry Johnson, 1946

Nobody goes to Hell at the church a
-cross the street, they all go to Heaven be
-cause when Jesus was crucified He died
once and for all for all their sins but here
at our church, and Sunday School, too, atone
-ment, vicarious atonement, isn't
enough, we've got to get saved all over
and born again and promise under pen
-alty of Perdition to pray and read
our Bible and do good deeds and love our
enemies whether they're our neighbors or

nix so after Sunday School this morning
I asked my teacher if I quit and start
attending church and Sunday School over
there will she join me and she said *Hell, yes.*

I fell asleep in Sunday School today
like Pharaoh did, Jacob's Pharaoh I think
it was, and like him dreamt of kine and *kine*
is a fancy word for *cattle* but be-
-fore I could dream of them completely through
our teacher woke me up to my classmates'
laughter and when I opened my eyes asked
did I have a pleasant nap, that she, too,
would like to sleep on Sunday mornings but
God requires that we worship Him so I
apologized and said *I won't eat ham*
-burgers anymore, ma'am, and I advise
you to do the same, or is that not do
the same, and my classmates laughed again but
not as loud as before. Is that *loudly?*

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Gale Acuff has had hundreds of poems published in a dozen countries and has authored three books of poetry. His poems have appeared in *Ascent, Reed, Arkansas Review, Poem, Birmingham Poetry Review, Florida Review, South Carolina Review, Carolina Quarterly, Roanoke Review, Ohio Journal, Sou'wester, South Dakota Review, North Dakota Quarterly,* and many other magazines and journals. He has taught tertiary English courses in several countries and is presently teaching

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