

# *Pretty Good*

There once was a pretty good student,  
Who sat in a pretty good class  
And was taught by a pretty good teacher,  
Who always let pretty good pass.

He wasn't terrific at reading;  
He wasn't a whiz-bang at math;  
But for him education was leading  
Straight down a pretty good path.

He didn't find school too exciting,  
But he wanted to do pretty well,  
And he did have some trouble with writing,  
And nobody had taught him to spell.

When doing arithmetic problems,  
Pretty good was regarded as fine;  
Five and five needn't always add up to be ten,  
A pretty good answer was nine.

The pretty good student was happy  
With the standards that were in effect,  
And nobody thought it was sappy  
If his answers were not quite correct.

The pretty good class that he sat in  
Was part of a pretty good school,  
And the student was not an exception;  
On the contrary, he was the rule.

The pretty good school that he went to  
Was right there in a pretty good town.  
And nobody there ever noticed  
He could not tell a verb from a noun.

The pretty good student, in fact,  
was part of a pretty good mob,  
And the first time he knew what he lacked was  
When he looked for a pretty good job.

It was then, when he sought a position,  
He discovered that a life can be tough,  
And he soon had a sneaky suspicion  
Pretty good might not be good enough.

The pretty good town in our story  
Was part of a pretty good state  
Which had pretty good aspirations  
And prayed for a pretty good fate.

There was once a pretty good nation,  
Pretty proud of the greatness it had,  
But which learned much too late,  
If you want to be great,  
Pretty good is, in fact, pretty bad.

Charles Osgood, CBS News  
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## **Expectations & Standards**

FRESHMAN TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Ahrens / 090816

# Expectations & Standards

Reread the poem and answer the following questions.

\*\*\*ALWAYS use complete sentences and WRITE NEATLY\*\*\*

1. Define "Pretty Good" as the term is used in this poem.
2. Should we be concerned with the quality of work, as long as the work gets done? Why or why not?
3. What does it mean to you as a student to have a good work ethic? How does this carry over into other areas of your life?
4. What is the message of this poem? Is the overall message optimistic or pessimistic and why?
5. Do you agree with the message of this poem? Why or why not?
6. I believe this poem is a true picture of one type of student. What do you think my expectations and standards will be for you in this class?