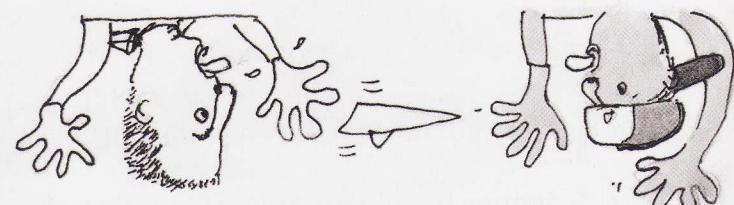
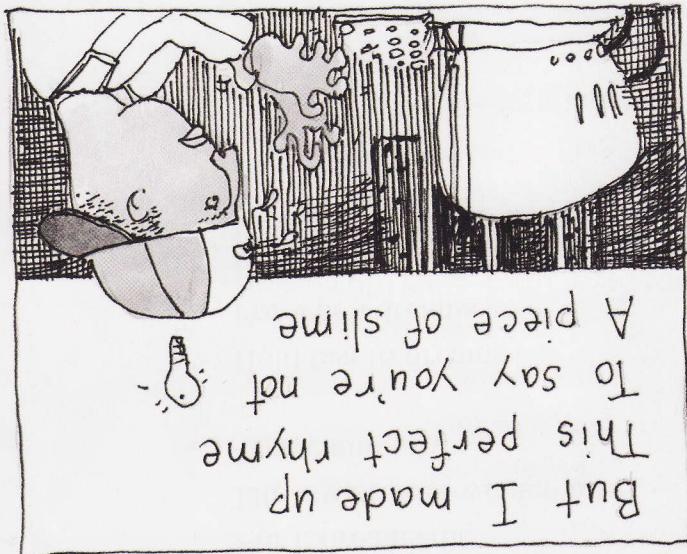
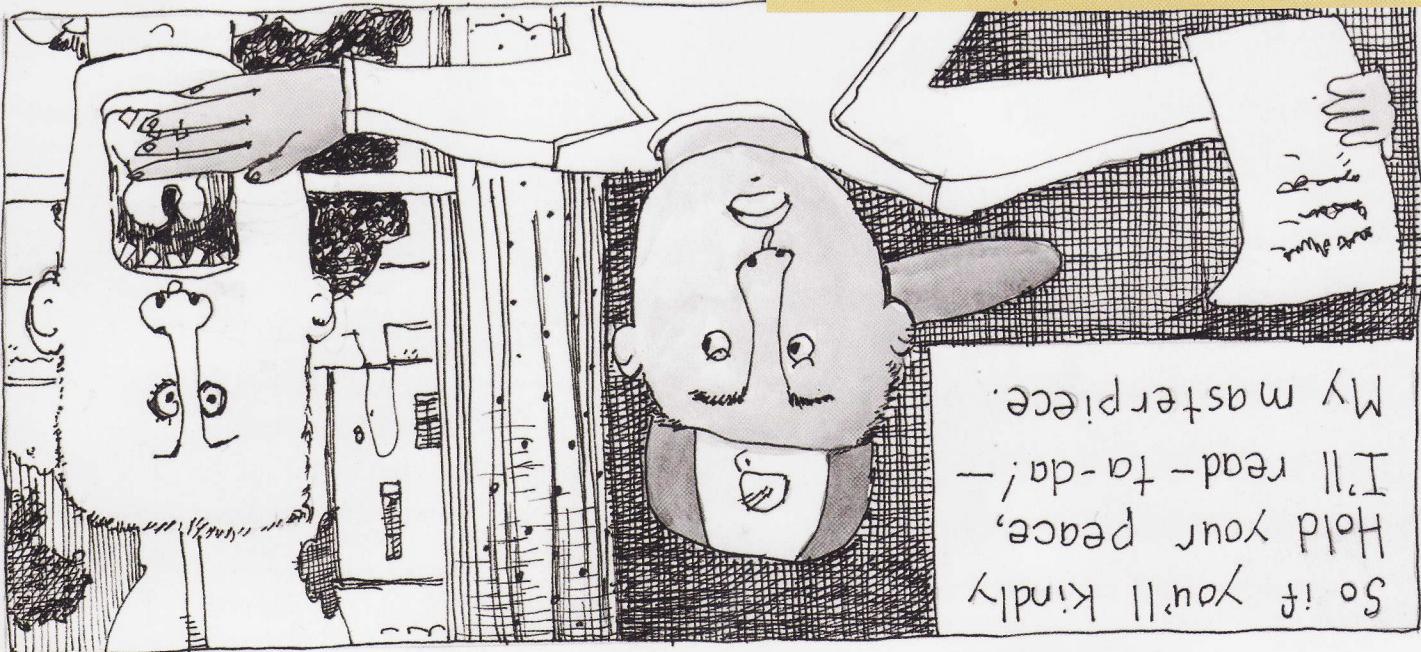


Get Ready

- Make connections. What qualities do you look for in a friend?



We can't be friends,
Some people think
S

drawings by M. Gvozalski

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LOSE

TO MY FRIEND, THE TOTAL

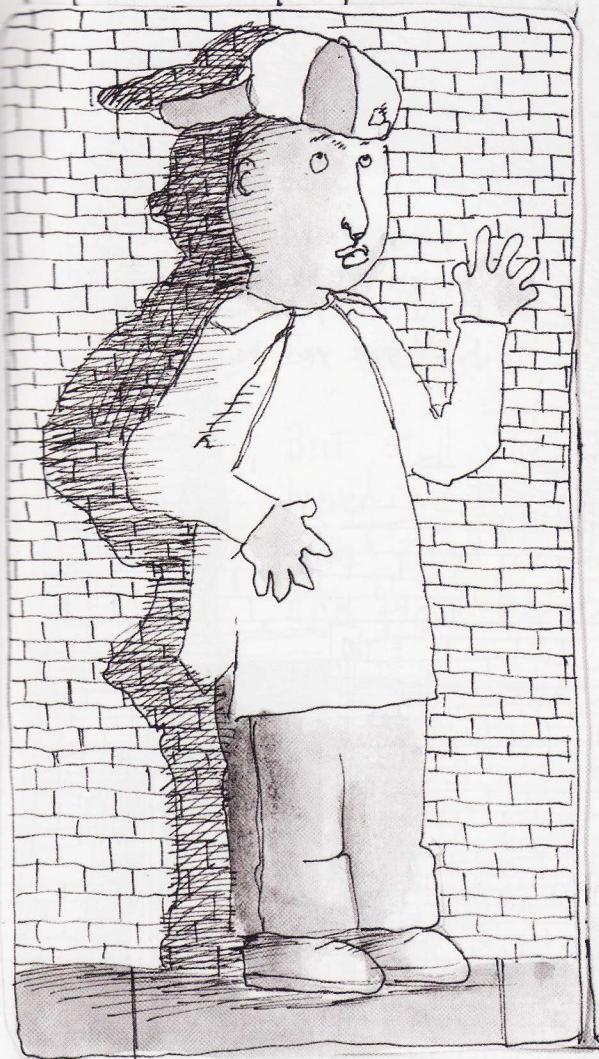


88
A person needs
A friend a lot,
And a friend is what
I'm glad I've got;

So
thank you
thank
you...



There, it's said -
I feel my face
Becoming red,



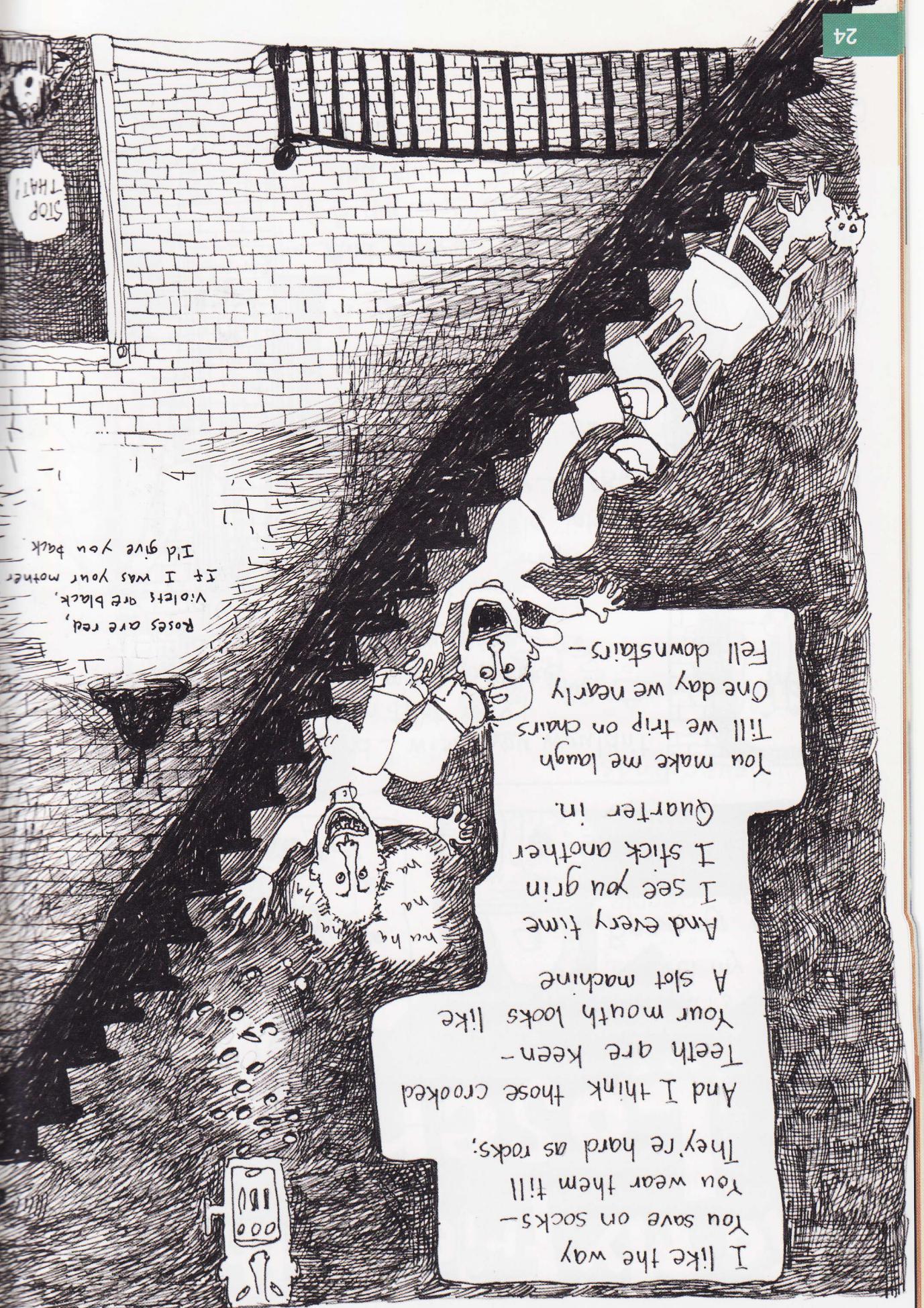
And I wish you wouldn't
Grin that way;
Your mouth looks like
An ice-cube tray.

But even though
You're such a jerk,
With your feeble jokes
And your goofy smirk,

I'm here to say
You really rule.
You're smarter than
A wooden stool,

And sweeter than
A garbage dump,
And cleaner than
A horse's rump.





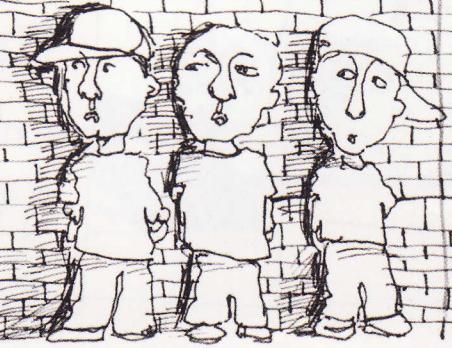
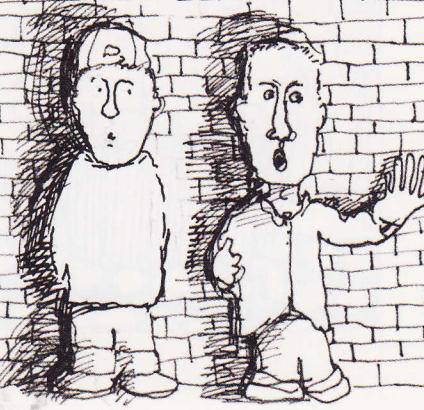
But still, you're kind of
Brave I guess,
Your no means no,
Your yes means yes

And even when
It makes you shrink,
You say the things
You truly think.

In fact your mouth
Is never closed;
Your tonsils blush
They're so exposed.

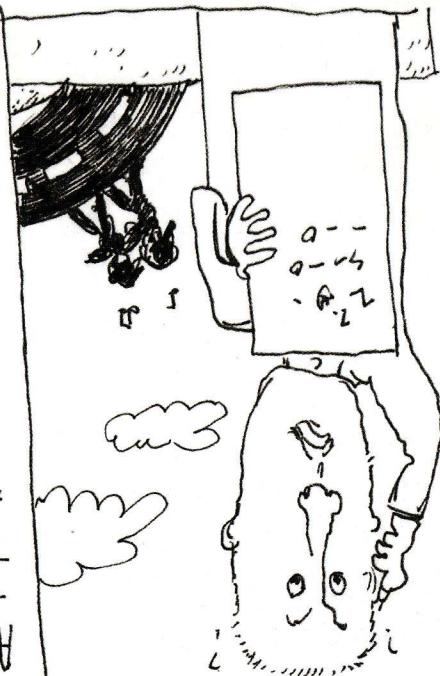
And your tweety voice
Is never quiet;
They must put birdseed
In your diet.

But still, you know
When we kid a lot
The time for kidding,
The time for not—

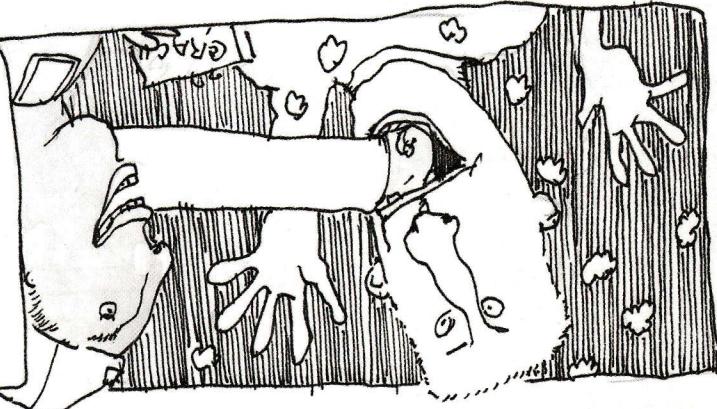




A mastodon,
And stuff you like
Fleas are gone
And bath you till your
Like a road
And ride along you
In code
And send you messages



(Crackerjack,
I'd like to feed you
Rub your back,
I'd like to come and

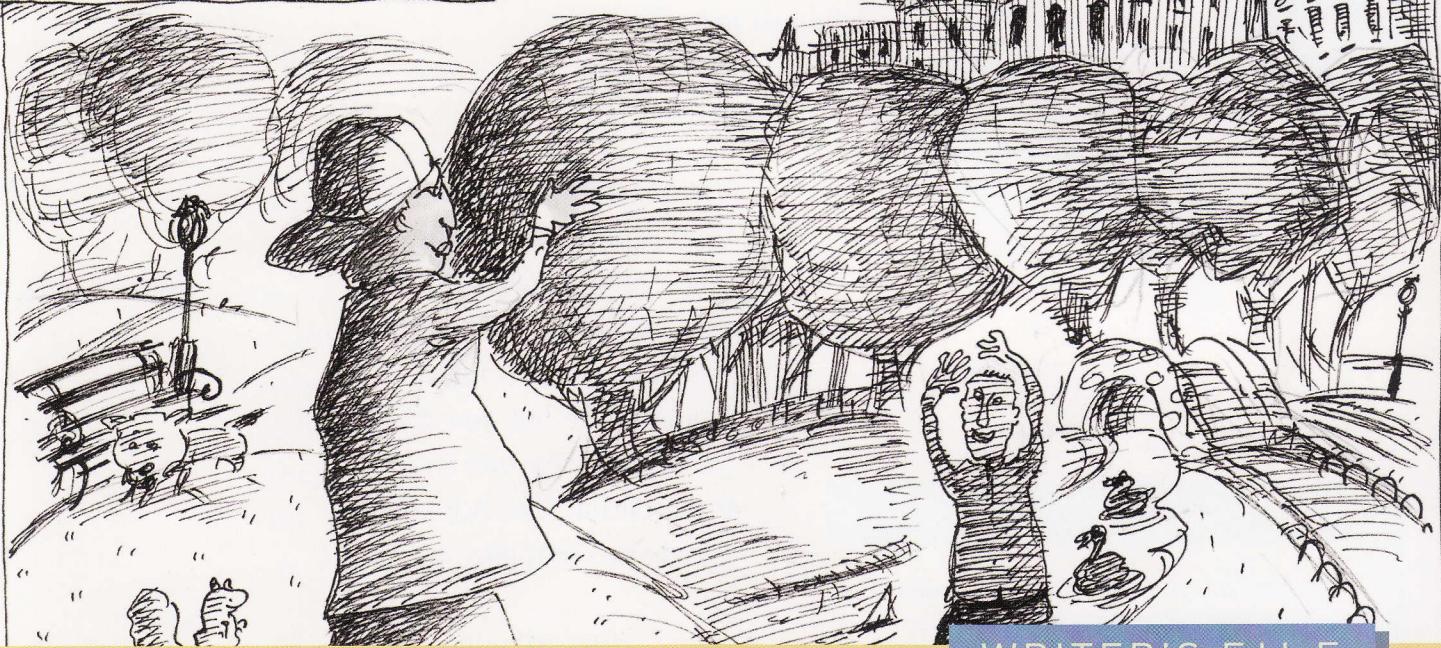


People knew.
I'd hide, if other
I say to you,
Cause often things



And let's hang out
In Kendal Park,
There's still an hour
Before it's dark;

Cause some things last, and
Some things end—
I want you always
For my friend.



React and Respond

1. What words and phrases do you think the friend would use to describe the narrator of the poem?
2. In pairs, discuss how people become friends. Do you choose your friends, or do your friends choose you?

Build Word Power

3. When poets use rhyme, they can put words together in unusual ways—like *way* and *ice-cube tray* in this poem. Use this poem's rhyming scheme to write your own four-line poem. Have your poem rhyme, in an original way, with one of these words: *running shoes, trampoline, or MP3.*

WRITER'S FILE

- Read like a writer. Notice how the poet's **word choice** creates vivid images. How does the poet use figurative language to describe his friend?
- Write five similes to describe someone you know.