

# What to do today

*IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.*

## 1. Story time

To Alexander, his teacher Mrs Dickens seemed quite strict. Well, compare Mrs Dickens to *this* teacher...

- Read and enjoy *Strict* by Michael Rosen.

## 2. Writing commands

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1cfVQyrQ3Q>.

Watch Michael Rosen himself retell *Strict*.

Think of a good name for the class teacher. You are going to write that teacher's set of Class Rules.

- Carefully read the *Instructions for Writing Class Rules*.
- Record the teacher's rules on the *classroom display paper*.

## 3. Creative writing

How would you have avoided being spotted breathing by the strict teacher?

- Consider all the ways you can think of to not to get caught breathing (maybe you would snatch a quick breath while you sharpen your pencil or put your jumper on!).
- On *Dodges and Tricks*, write in detail about all your clever ideas to avoid being sent to the school prison (or worse!) for breathing.

## Now try this Fun-Time Extra

- The teacher's question to the class in *Strict* was, 'Where's Tibet?' You had better find out before you get into trouble! Use the Internet, a globe or an atlas to find out where Tibet is and what it is like to live there. This website is a good place to start:

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Tibet/346219>

## Strict



Maybe you think you have a  
teacher  
who's really strict,  
maybe you know a really strict  
teacher.

But when I was at school  
we had a teacher who was so strict  
you weren't allowed to breathe  
in her lessons.

That's true, we weren't allowed to  
breathe.

It was really hard to get through  
a whole day without breathing.

Lips tightly shut.

Face going red.

Eyeballs popping out.

She'd go round the class glaring at us  
and she'd suddenly catch sight of  
one of us and she'd yell,

**'NO BREATHING, DO YOU HEAR ME? NO BREATHING.'**

And you had to stop breathing  
right away.

The naughty ones used to try and  
take quick secret breaths  
under the table.

They'd duck down where she  
couldn't see them,  
snatch a quick breath and come  
back up  
with their mouth shut tight.

Then someone would say,  
'Excuse me, miss, can I go outside  
and do some breathing?'  
And she'd say,

'WHAT? CAN'T YOU WAIT? YOU'VE HAD ALL PLAYTIME TO BREATHE,  
HAVEN'T YOU?'

And then she'd ask someone a  
question  
like, 'Where's Tibet?'  
and someone would put up their hand  
and say, 'Er... it's –'  
and she'd be right in there with:

'YOU'RE BREATHING. I SAW  
YOU BREATHE.'

'I wasn't, miss, really I wasn't.'  
'WELL, YOU ARE NOW, AREN'T YOU?'  
It was terrible.  
She was so strict.

by Michael Rosen  
From *No Breathing in Class* by Michael Rosen and Korky Paul

## Instructions for Writing Class Rules



You are going to write the set of class rules put up by the teacher in *Strict*.

Each rule must begin with something you **must** or **must not** do:

*No breathing*

*Never leave the lids off the felt pens*

*Always sit in total silence*

Remember, this particular teacher is **extremely** strict, so all her rules are likely to be very tough and extreme.

For each rule, think of a punishment the teacher would give if you broke the rule:

*No breathing.*

*Anyone found breathing will immediately be sent to the school dungeon.*

*Never leave the lids off the felt pens.*

*If found doing so children will be made to clean out the school tiger's cage while he is still in it.*

How many hideous rules can you think of?

Write these down as a **bullet-pointed** or **numbered list** on the *My Class Rules* page.

Sign with the teacher's name: Mrs Bitterton, Miss Savage, Mrs Harsh, etc.

# My Class Rules



A large rectangular area with horizontal lines for writing class rules, framed by a decorative border of colorful puzzle pieces.

## Dodges and Tricks



The form consists of a large rectangular area with a decorative border of colorful puzzle pieces (red, yellow, blue, green, and grey). Inside the border, there are 12 horizontal lines for writing, creating 11 rows of space.