

## Get a Life

I **got** to know this **kid** when I **got** to junior **high**.  
He used to **get** into **trouble**, get in **fights**, and get **high**.  
But when he **got** a little **older**, he **got** more **mature**.  
His **mom** got him in **line** so his **vision** wouldn't **blur**.  
She **got** on his **case** to get **straight** and get a **job**,  
so **they** could get **by** without **having** to **rob**.  
Every **night** when he got **off**, he'd **get** out his **notebook**  
and get **busy** writing **rhymes** because **he** was no **crook**.  
He got a **look** at universities and **got** some **applications**,  
got **approval** from his **teachers** to **get** their **recommendations**.  
He got **grief** from his **friends**; he got **insulted** and got **hurt** when  
they got **scared** and **insecure** because they **knew** he would **desert** them.

As we get **older**, we get **wiser** but we **often** get **lost**.  
I hope you **get** what I'm **saying**; I hope it's **getting** **across**.  
When **people** truly **love** you, they get **after** you to **listen**.  
You **might** just get a **clue** and **see** what you've been **missing**.

Sure **enough** he got a **scholarship** and **got** into **college**.  
He got **down** to **studying** and **building** **knowledge**.  
He got **ahead**, got out of **hustling** with **thugs** on his **block**,  
getting **hassled** by **cops**, getting **locked** up on **cell** blocks.  
He got **along** with the **students** in his **dorm**,  
got **sun** on the **quad** when the **weather** got **warm**.  
He got **used** to life on **campus**, got **adjusted** really **fast**,  
got the **schedule** that he **wanted** with the **poetry class**.  
He got **books** from the **library**, got **into** his **studies**, though  
at **times** it got **rough** when he got **homesick** for his **buddies**.  
**Still**, he'd gotten a **ticket** to get **out** and get **away** from it  
**all**, but got a **shock** when one **morning** he got **up** and got a  
**call** from his **aunt** who had **discovered** his **mom** had gotten  
**sick**. She said, "**Quick**, you've got to **get** to your **mother**."



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When **people** truly **love** you, they get **after** you to **listen**.  
You **might** just get a **clue** and **see** what you've been **missing**;  
so get **on** with your **life**; stop **trying** to get **even**,  
getting **back** at him or **her** to get **revenge** for no good **reason**.  
There's **no** getting **away** from the **fact** that life is **short**.  
We **all** get to the **point** where we **need** to get support.

He'd just **gotten** his **very** first **A** on a **poem** when he  
got **packed** but **lacked** the funds to **get** back **home**.  
He got a **loan** from this guy **Nick** and then **alone** he got a **ticket**  
at the **airport** all he could **think** of was his **mother** getting **sick**.  
It got him **down**; it got him **stressed**, but he'd get **passed** the **depression**.  
For **years** from his **mother** he'd **gotten** so many **blessings**.  
He **got** himself **mentally** prepared to get the **job** done;  
he **got** aboard the **plane** and then got **off** when it got **in** at 1:00.  
He got a **cab** but when he **got** to his **apartment**,  
got to **thinking** that it **felt** like he was **right** back where he'd **started**.  
Would he **get** sucked **in** again to **life** with his **hustling** friends,  
who **now** had got the **ends** to cop a **Beemer** or a **Benz**?  
Would he **get** to the **end** of the **term** and get good **grades**,  
so he'd still **qualify** in **May** to **get** financial **aid**?  
He **knew** he'd get **behind** and it'd be **hard** to catch **up**;  
he **might** get in a **rut** and get **stuck** and then **what**  
would his **mom** say **then**? And **where** would he **be**?  
Without **getting** a **degree**, a **career** he'd never **see**.

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You **might** just get a **clue** and **see** what you've been **missing**.



His **mom** had gotten pneumonia; she could **barely speak**.  
He stayed and **never** left her **side** for the **next** twelve **weeks**.  
If his **friends** had **called**, he wouldn't have **gotten** the **phone**;  
but **no** one got in **touch**, though they **knew** he had come **home**.  
He never **once** got the **feeling** that his **mom** would **die**.  
She'd get **over** her **illness** and get **better** by and **by**.  
But it **wasn't** to **be**. She passed **away** one **night**.  
She was **barely** getting **on** in her **years**, not **quite**  
fifty-**one**; it wasn't **right**; the **tears** he couldn't **fight**;  
he got **upset**; he felt **fright** and full of **spite**, **ready**  
to **ignite**. No **appetite**, he **couldn't** eat a **bite** or  
get to **sleep** at **night**; he lay **awake** until **daylight**.  
He **didn't** try to **write**; he couldn't **get** himself to **do**  
a freaking **thing**. His **aunt** got fed **up** with him; she **said**  
she had to **bring** him to his **senses** and **get** him on a **plane**.  
She **got** him to **do** it, though he protested and **complained**.  
She said, "You've **got** to get **moving**, get **going**, get your **life** back."  
He **finally** got the **point**; he **promised** to get on **track**,  
and, in **fact**, back at **college** the **textbooks** he **attacked**.  
He got **right** to **work**, allowing **nothing** to **distract** him from  
his **goal** of getting **through** freshman **year** so he could **get**  
to be a **sophomore** and **steer** his **way** to graduation day,  
so **poor** he wouldn't **be** anymore.  
And get **this**: that's **just** what he **did**.  
**Today** he's got a **house**, a PhD and three **kids**.

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You **might** just get a **clue** and **see** what you've been **missing**.  
From the **get** go, he got **off** to a **difficult** start.  
He'd "get **nowhere** in **life**," or **so** people **thought**.  
But when you've **got** the **will** and the **drive** to do **more**  
than just **survive** on this **Earth** you feel **intensely alive**;  
you **get** up the **courage** to get **focused** and **strive**.  
Peace to **those** who shun **strife**, out there **getting** a **life**.