

MISS SHIELDS

[Please read both Sides 1 and 2]

Side 1

(A tightly buttoned, spinster-ish schoolteacher, Miss Shields means business!)

MISS SHIELDS: Good morning, class. Children. Our first activity of the day will be an in-class theme -- entitled: "What I Want for Christmas." And, as always, I expect good penmanship, careful conjugation, proper punctuation and close attention to the margins. Margins ... MARGINS! You may begin.

Side 2

(Ralphie's "fantasy" : Miss Shields cannot say enough good things about Ralphie, his theme, and the idea of him getting a Red Ryder BB Gun!)

MISS SHIELDS: Mr. and Mrs. Parker, your extraordinary son Ralph has written the theme I've been waiting for all my life. "What I want for Christmas is a Red Ryder BB gun with a compass in the stock and this thing that tells time!" Sheer poetry. And the penmanship, the conjugation, the punctuation. All contained in the tightly constrained dictates of the margins. I can hardly control myself. Anyway, Ralph has convinced me beyond a doubt, through his magnificent and eloquent theme, that it is absolutely necessary that he be given a Red Ryder BB gun for the protection of your family. After all, grizzly bears were spotted near Pulaski's candy store the other day. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Parker, for your time. And for Ralph -- my prize, A-plus, plus, plus, plus, plus, plus student!