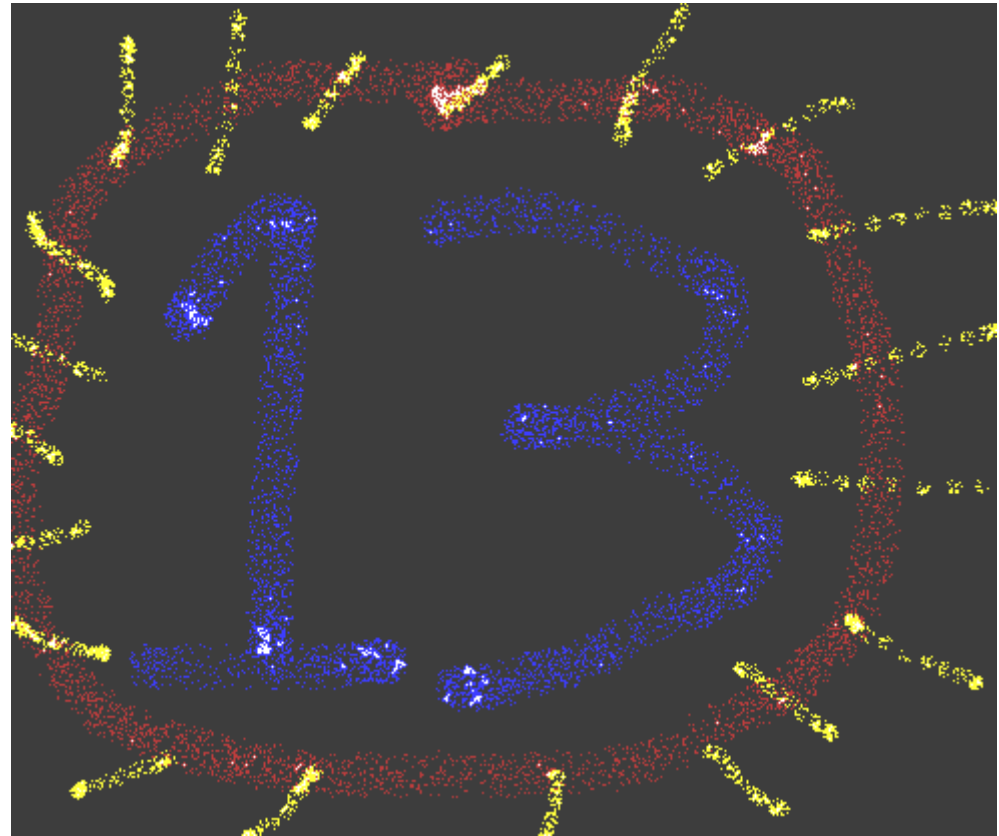


# **B i n g 1 3**

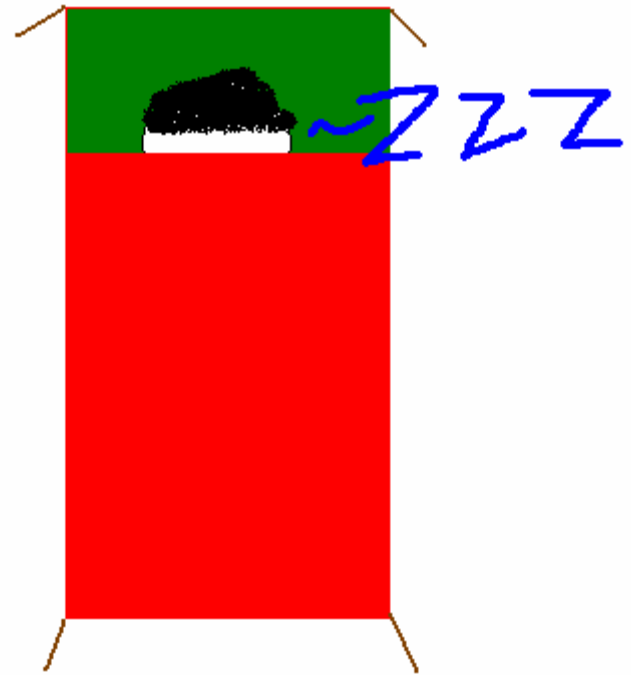
**by Danny Zeff**

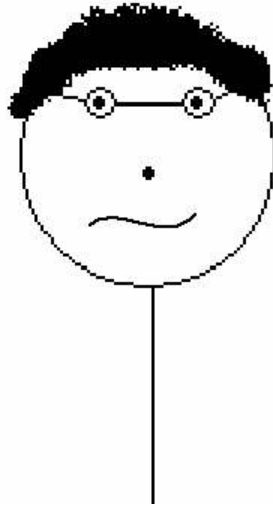
Being thirteen.  
It's the bar mitzvah age.  
The world's my oyster.  
The world's my stage.

This complex age  
Has many pros and cons.  
Perhaps I should tell  
them  
By the stroke of dawn.



They want me to take care  
Of my body and chores.  
“Wake up! Shower!  
You’re no longer four!”





My body's changing so  
much.

Deodorant and skin cream.

What are these things?

Is this a nightmare or a  
dream?

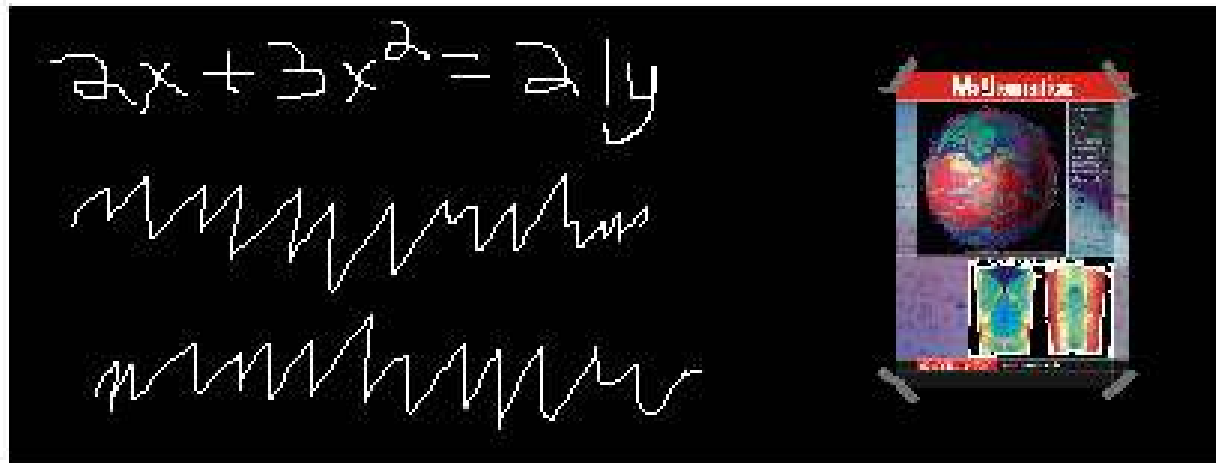
Acne and body hair.

Seems to happen to all boys.

At least I get

A change in my voice.

Eighth grade's a tough year:  
History, algebra, and speech.  
What will come in high school?  
What will my teachers teach?



A whole bunch of people  
Expect stuff from me.  
Why do they look  
So stereotypically?



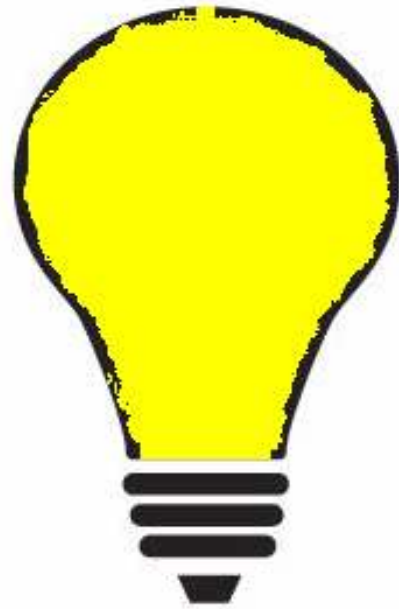
Do that!

No, I don't have a girlfriend.  
Yes, sometimes I'm depressed.  
Yes, I can be trusted.  
These things I'll confess.



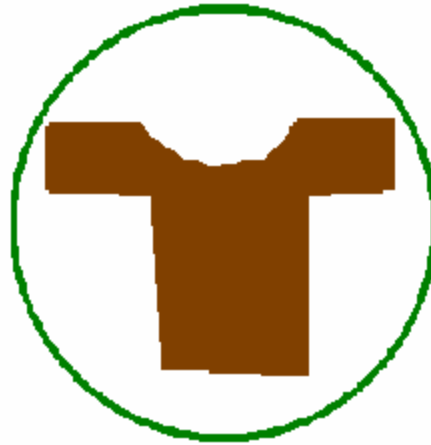
Do this!

Then they assume  
I have responsibility.  
I'm still just a kid.  
I want fun, can't you  
see?



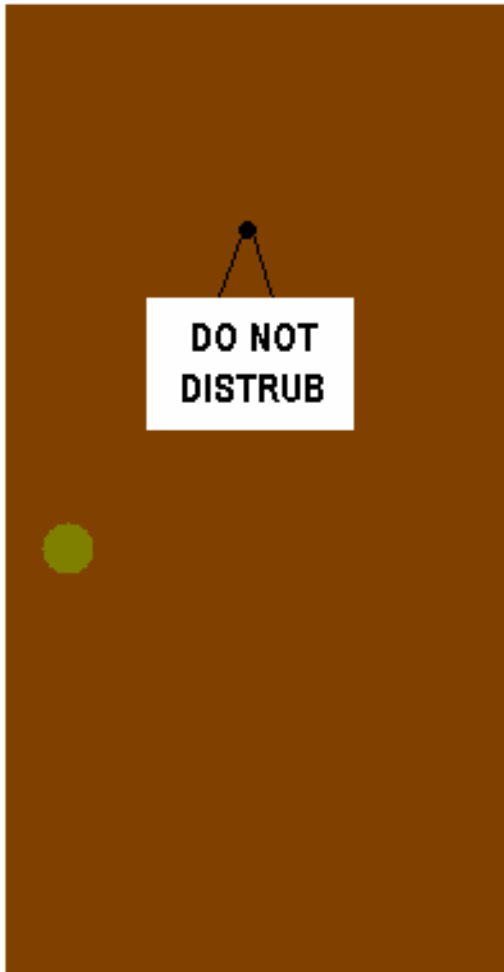
At least being thirteen  
Opens up so many doors.  
After all I am smart enough  
To do so much more.

My tastes now are changing.  
Not burgers, I want steak.  
And solid clothes, not polka-dots.  
Much more to take.



I can pick my own clothes  
At Old Navy and others,  
While all my old clothes  
Go to my little brother.

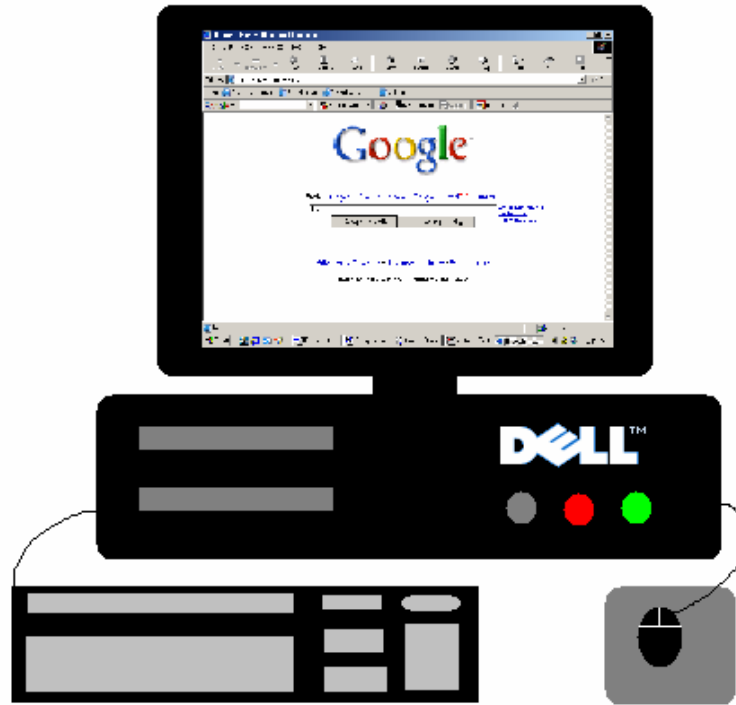




I finally have privacy  
In the bedroom, and more,  
And when I'm on the toilet,  
Or else I'll give a roar.

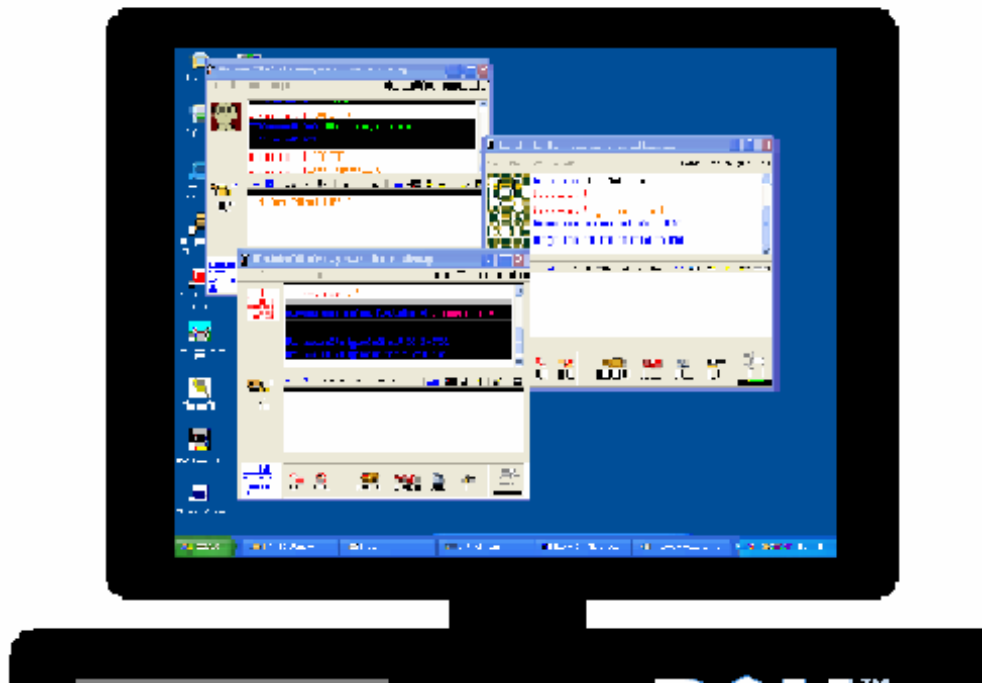


Adult menus at restaurants.  
Alone at movies—fine with me  
'Cause now I can see  
PG-13.



Dell, AOL, and Amazon.  
Oh, I'm such a wiz.  
It's so easy to use.  
Computer stuff, that is.

Chatting online.  
Making web pages too.  
On our admired internet,  
There's so much to do.





I've earned so much money.  
Two thousand dollars at least.  
With games, movies, and music  
I'll sure have a feast.

With the money in the bank,  
I can say KA-CHING!  
I can't buy an iPod  
But I can buy bling bling.

I hope that this cash  
Will get me quite far.  
I'll buy things for my bike  
Until I can buy a car.

During this time  
In Two Thousand Five  
It's a really great time  
To be so alive.

The world is changing.  
I know that now.  
Tsunamis, elections,  
Peace treaties... WOW!



I look up to older teens.  
Younger kids look up to me.  
Yes, being thirteen  
Is a good age to be.

This age is like heaven.  
I'm happy and clean.  
What will happen next  
year.  
When I turn 14?

