

**42. Sideways Stories From Wayside School**  
by Louis Sachar (Excerpt)



- A** <sup>1</sup>Joe counted the potatoes. <sup>2</sup>"Seven, five, three, one, two, four, six, eight. <sup>3</sup>There are eight potatoes, Mrs. Jewls."
- B** <sup>4</sup>"No, there are eight," said Mrs. Jewls.
- C** <sup>5</sup>"But that's what I said," said Joe. <sup>6</sup>"May I go to recess now?"
- D** <sup>7</sup>"No, you got the right answer, but you counted the wrong way again." <sup>8</sup>She put three books on his desk. <sup>9</sup>"Count the books, Joe."
- E** <sup>10</sup>Joe counted the books. <sup>11</sup>"A thousand, a million, three. <sup>12</sup>Three, Mrs. Jewls."
- F** <sup>13</sup>"Correct," said Mrs. Jewls.
- G** <sup>14</sup>"May I go to recess now?" Joe asked.
- H** <sup>15</sup>"No," said Mrs. Jewls.
- I** <sup>16</sup>"May I have a potato?" asked Joe.
- J** <sup>17</sup>"No, listen to me. <sup>18</sup>One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten," said Mrs. Jewls. <sup>19</sup>"Now you say it."
- K** <sup>20</sup>"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten," said Joe.
- L** <sup>21</sup>"Very good!" said Mrs. Jewls. <sup>22</sup>She put six erasers on his desk. <sup>23</sup>"Now count the erasers, Joe, just the way I showed you."
- M** <sup>24</sup>Joe counted the erasers. <sup>25</sup>"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. <sup>26</sup>There are ten, Mrs. Jewls."
- N** <sup>27</sup>"No," said Mrs. Jewls.
- O** <sup>28</sup>"This doesn't make any sense," said Joe. <sup>29</sup>"When I count the wrong way I get the right answer, and when I count right I get the wrong answer."
- P** <sup>30</sup>Mrs. Jewls hit her head against the wall five times. <sup>31</sup>"How many times did I hit my head against the wall?" she asked.
- Q** <sup>32</sup>"One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. <sup>33</sup>You hit your head against the wall ten times," said Joe.
- R** <sup>34</sup>"No," said Mrs. Jewls.
- S** <sup>35</sup>"Four, six, one, nine, five. <sup>36</sup>You hit your head five times," said Joe.
- T** <sup>37</sup>Mrs. Jewls shook her head no and said, "Yes, that is right."