

## *Michael and the Birthday Dinner*

When it comes to dinner, Michael never has a voice  
but today is his birthday and mother gave him a choice  
“You can choose where we eat, any restaurant is fine  
there’s no need to hurry, it’s not even dinner time”

So Michael thought about it for an incredibly short while  
and after a short second his grin grew into a smile  
“Cheesy Pete’s Pizza Pan. Pizza, games, and fun.  
Of all the places I could go, I am sure that’s the one!”

“Oh sweetie,  
Cheesy Pete’s doesn’t have the nutrition that we need  
it’s so expensive there and there are four of us to feed.  
Besides, she said, ‘It’s noisy, and the food is so greasy.  
Choose another place. There are many. It should be easy.

A little disappointed Michael gave it another try  
this time he thought he’d go for a hot dog and a fry  
“Let’s go to Howdy Dogs, and get a root beer shake  
with cheesy fries, onion rings with chicken fried steak!”

“Oh sweetie  
Howdy Dogs is so far away on the other side of town”  
there must be other places closer, there’s no need to frown  
I am sure you’ll think of something, maybe on our street  
a restaurant more for families, you know, clean and neat

There is a deli on the corner that he supposes would be fine  
it’s just that because it’s close, they go there all the time.  
With sadder eyes, and quiet voice, he suggested Dion’s Deli  
after all it won an award as best place to fill your belly

“Oh sweetie  
there are no vegetables,” said mom, “in their food”  
why not Chinese food from Wah Da Ling or Wing Sai Foo  
Michael was hungry and was running out of time  
so he faked little smile and said that would be fine

so off they go to Wah Da Ling to see if it's open or not  
Michael crosses both his fingers as they pull into the lot  
He is not superstitious but he does believe in hope  
when asked if it's open his mom just says 'nope'

The sign in the window said "Closed for remodeling"  
which was fine with him. He never really cared for Wah Da Ling  
Mother said, "We should have called first but we were in such a haste  
I know you are getting hungry so we'll try another place"

so back in the car and off they go headed for Dion's Deli!  
but a sign on it's door read "Closed - Gas Leak" and everything was smelly!  
what poor fortune Michael was having, especially on his birthday  
all he wanted was pizza and fun, but nothing was going his way!

by now Michael was very hungry, confused and very frustrated  
he was sure they were headed for a place he really hated  
It didn't really matter. He was so hungry, his stomach ached  
but to his surprise mom said she wanted a root beer shake

so off they go to Howdy Dogs without the slightest hesitation  
just to find a sign that read, "Closed, I'm going on vacation"  
"Well good for Howdy" said Dad, giving mom a funny little smile  
but Michael couldn't see the humor, he hadn't eaten in quite a while

he had always trusted his parents, they had always come through  
but this time they had no clue, he didn't know what to do  
he just sat there being grumpy in the back of the car  
looking out the window wondering where they are

by now he's quite upset and feeling angry inside  
and he wants some answers to his questions of why  
why did we have to drive all about town  
why are we driving in circles , around and around

Michael clears his throat and says, "Umm, Mom, Dad?  
I am afraid this is going to be the worse birthday I've ever had.  
ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS TO GO TO CHEESY PETE'S.  
IT'S BEEN 2 HOURS. I AM STARVING. I JUST WANT SOMETHING TO EAT!

Just then he noticed they were in Cheesy Pete's parking lot  
But Michael's bad mood didn't care if it was Cheesy Pete's or not  
"I am not happy", thought Michael, "I am not even going to pretend.  
I could have been home by now, playing with all my friends"

but when they walked through the doors he saw his best friend  
and another, and another, in a long line that didn't end  
in fact, to his amazement there was a whole bunch of guys  
and along with his parents they all yelled "SURPRISE!"

Then Michael knew that they had known all along  
he sheepishly said, " I am so sorry. I was so wrong.  
Mom and dad smiled and just said, "We love you.  
We wanted a party because just a dinner wouldn't do"

We talked you into restaurants that we knew would be closed  
and because you trust us we knew you wouldn't be opposed  
but we needed the time even though it was late  
because most of your friends couldn't be here til eight"

The party was noisy and the food was greasy too  
Michael thought about all about he had to go through  
and how he almost lost faith in his mom and dad  
and how this birthday was the best he ever had.