



Inspired by WritingFix's [Top Secret Rule Reasons lesson](#), which is based on David Wisniewski's [The Secret Knowledge of Grown-ups](#), these two sixth graders took different approaches to writing about their own rule reasons. Compare these two pieces with a partner. Talk about the writing strengths of each piece of writing on this page. Will you use the book's format when you write about your own reason, or will you be more creative in your approach?

Grown-up Rule #1,000,001: Don't Draw on the Walls

by Erica, fifth grade writer

Official Reason: The house looks messy.

Real Reason: In reality, the wall can feel tickled and laugh so hard that the whole house will topple over. Then, the house will fall through the ground. Under the ground, the walls will keep laughing, which will cause the ground to shake very severely. The severe shaking of the ground will cause everything (even humans) to topple over and roll this way and that way.

Eventually, everything and everybody will roll off of the earth. This has happened and been recorded before. Scientists believe that somehow the people made a human chain and pulled themselves back to Earth, which was good, but scientists say that it is impossible to do that again. Drawing on the walls can cause the same thing to happen again now or in 1,000 years.



Grown-up Rule #77: Don't Suck your Thumb

by Elizabeth, sixth grade writer

Official Reason: It's rude in public and disgusting.

Real Reason: When sucking your thumb, your thumb might fall off. A small thumb can grow little legs, run away, and try to take over the world. A thumb can also grow evil eyes and try to form an army of other living thumbs.

The thumbs would want to destroy the chocolate factories first because thumbs don't like the warm and delicious taste of chocolate.

The army of thumbs would think they are cool, and next they would need to create a machine that can turn humans into living thumbs. There is the leader, Thumbinator, and the second leader, Thumbasoaras. Once humans see the thumb army, they would run and scream like little babies. Some humans would want to be brave and try and stop the army, but they will have no luck.

The thumbs are going to blow up this place, so that's why you shouldn't suck your thumb.



Grown-up Rule #1,423: Eat your Vegetables!

by Meghna, sixth grade poet

Official Reason: You stay healthy and grow stronger.

Real Reason: If you neglect your vegetables, they can turn into wild animals and attack you!

Have you ever had a pet bear?

If not, read on! It's quite a scare.

The real truth, the whole truth, no "buts" and no "whys," I'll tell you the truth, while your parents tell you lies.

When you eat your vegetables, you think, "Ew!"

Your parents say it's good for you, which is quite true.

But that reason is definitely not real,

Let me tell you how parents really feel!

When you look at vegetables, they seem so dead,

But did you know that vegetables can shed?

When you neglect them, they come alive,

Like cheetahs that sprint, or dolphins that dive.

They grow and grow, until they become free,

That is, free to attack you and me!

They can escape and go into your neighbor's house,

But you won't hear them; they are as quiet as a mouse.

Your neighbor will soon find a nasty surprise:

He can't get rid of them as much as he tries!

I know this girl, whose parents were trapped,

By bears and giraffes who refused to nap.

For when you want to tie them up by day,

You must wait till morning; it's the only way!

To tie them up and ship them far,

By bus, by plane, by train, or by car.

So let's keep those animals in the zoo,

Put the veggies in your mouth, and chew, chew, CHEW!

