

South Lewis "Tip  
of the Month"

# POWERFUL Instruction

## Understanding Students from Poverty



May '17

### HOW DO I SAY NO?

While writing our spelling words five times each,  
although  
although  
although  
although  
although

Andrea asks me if she can come over to my house sometime.  
I cringe.  
There's no way I want her at my house.  
She wouldn't understand the way we live,  
the broken windows,  
the drinking water from jugs by the door,  
the old carpets and  
the wringer washer sitting in the kitchen.  
She'd hate me if she knew.  
But how can I say no?  
"I'll ask Mom."

11 years old

Poems by a  
Massena High  
School English  
teacher who grew  
up in poverty.

### ALL THE OTHER KIDS

I wore my new outfit the first day and felt so good  
about myself.  
But all the other kids had new outfits the first day,  
the second day,  
and the third day.  
Some of them had new outfits the whole week,  
with new shoes for every day.  
I don't feel so good anymore.

9 Years Old

### BE SMALL

This new school is worse than the last.  
No one sits next to me  
Unless the teacher makes them.  
I imagine being anyplace but in the  
class  
Where I feel like all the kids look at  
me.  
I scrunch down in my chair.  
I want to be small.  
Invisible.

7 years old