

Gender Roles Blues

There once was a girl named Lizzy
who loved to fly through books in a tizzy.
She was happy 'til one day her mother whisked her away
and said "From now on / will keep you busy!"

Her mother taught Lizzy how a lady serves tea
but Lizzy told her "This is not who I want to be!"
Her mother taught Lizzy how to lace up her corset
but Lizzy said she wanted nothing more with it.

"I must teach you **etiquette**,"
her mother declared.
"Books and intelligence
get ladies nowhere!"

Lizzy pouted and fretted but eventually gave in.
It was all too clear to her that she'd never win.

There once was a boy named Dirck
who loved to lounge around and hated to work.
He was happy 'til one day his father whisked him away
and said "From now on your mind you *will* exert!"

His father taught Dirck about numbers and figures
but Dirck told him "I'd rather keep house like my sister!"
His father taught Dirck about the government and law
but Dirck said "I'm not like you and Grandpa!"

"I must make you a **scholar**,"
his father declared.
"Unlearned boys go nowhere
except poverty and squalor!"

Dirck pouted and sighed, but eventually gave in.
It was all too clear to him that he'd never win.

Dirck and Lizzy could not choose
who they wanted to be or what they'd like to do.
Their lives were decided before they were born
by society dictating what each **gender** could and could not learn.