E ducation is an important hu-
man right, but does everyone
have equal access? The articles
in this section tell stories of be-
ing treated badly in school, not
being able to finish school, and having to
fight to stay in school. Parents share stories
of having to fight for their children to get
an education. Communities have to fight to
stop schools from being closed down and to
make sure schools are accountable to tax-
payers and not private corporations.

L A B E L E D B A D
K I M B U R L E Y

When I was in the third grade, the teacher
put me in the corner every day because her
teacher’s pet did things to make me mad. The
teacher believed everything that girl told her.
But I felt lonely, and I felt that my classmates
thought I was a bad person. I was too afraid to
tell my mother, so one day I just got tired of it,
and I hit that teacher’s pet and knocked out
one of her teeth.

When I was 11 years old, I went to Sam-
my E. Corn Middle School. One Friday, the
assistant principal asked me to come to his
office. He asked me if I were kin to my older
sister and brother. I said, yes. Then he asked,
“Are we going to have any problems out of
you?” I said, no. School was going well until I
got to homeroom and they put us on teams. I
was put in team F with the bad students, the
students who got teased.

Then there was the teacher who tried to
make my life different. Mrs. Smith was a good
teacher. She tried to help me with my school-
work, and she and her husband even took
me out to dinner. But I would say many bad
things to hurt her. And now when I look back
on it, I feel bad. I would like to see her again
and ask her to forgive me. I would tell her that
I have gone back to school because I want to
get my GED.

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