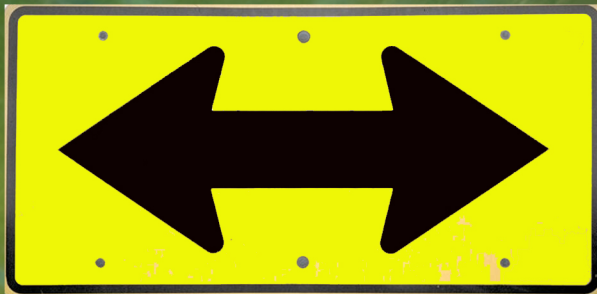


YOU CAN'T DO THIS
YOU CAN'T DO THAT



Rules, rules and more annoying rules

How This Book Came To Be

Knowing that grandpa (poppa to them) is not always the same softy that grandma is, my grandkids were working on me to do things.

I do not remember what those things were, but out of my mouth came “You can’t do this, you can’t do that”, with a big smile on my face.

A day or so later, I decided to see what I could do with that phrase.

The first effort was one page, about 20 lines, no graphics.

After several rewrites, it grew to three or four pages, then up to 15 with clip art.

My first and only “public” reading was my younger grandson’s kindergarten class.

It was met with typical five year old response.

I then put the whole thing down until now, 2021.

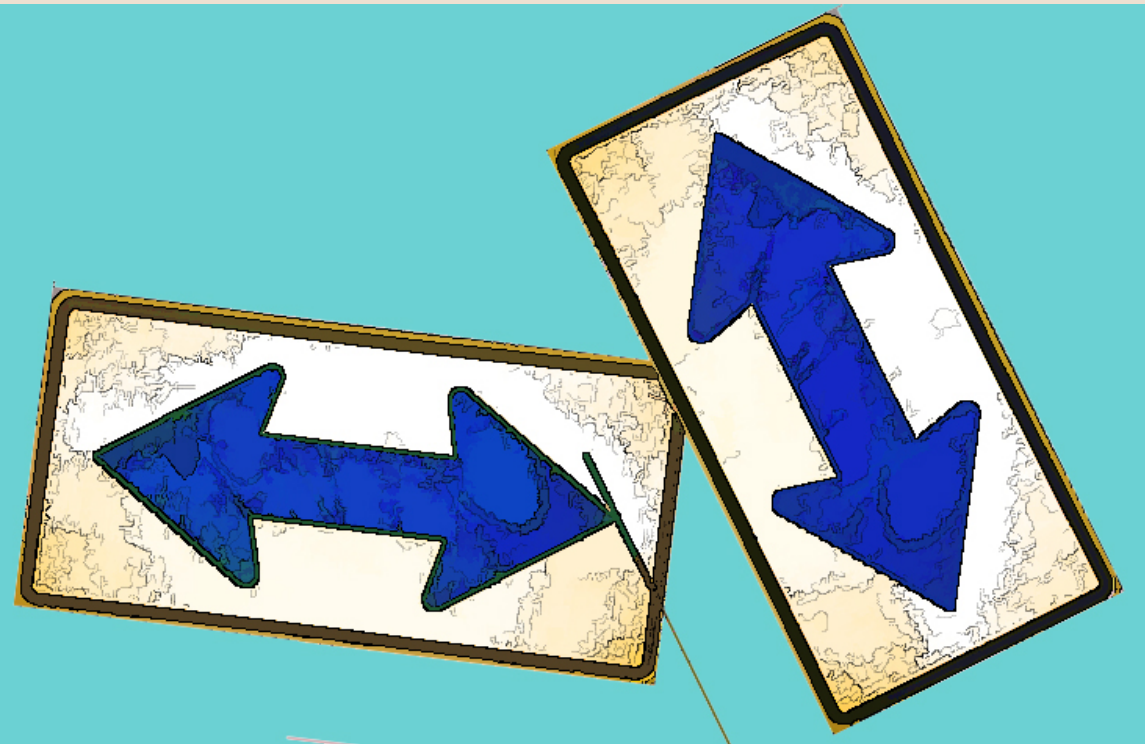
A friend of mine, who is in the publishing business, suggested I try putting it together for the world at large.

Let me know what you think, please.

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To my grandchildren, with love.

There are rules and rules and rules.



They make no sense they're really dumb.

No feet on the table.

Eat your vegetables.



Get ready for bed.

Please get dressed.

I have to tell you,

life's not fair.

But it's time to get ready
and sit in your chair.

The chair is broken,
yes, I see.

So you need to sit very
carefully.



No crying please.

No boo hoo hoo.

These rules, rules, rules are just for you.

You think they are silly,
you think they are mean.

You are right, but,
the first rule is,
no jelly beans.

You can't have a
few.

You can't have
many.

You can't have
some.

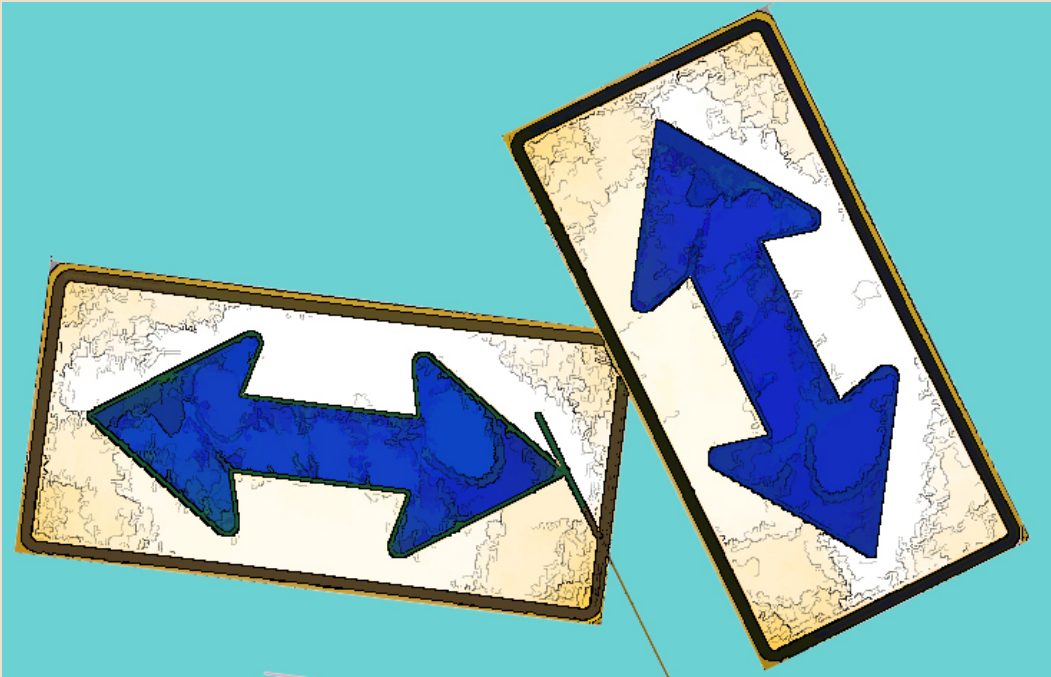
You can't have
any.



Let's make it simple.

Let's make it clear.

Here are the rules for the next year.



You can't do this.

You can't do that.

You can't be thin.

You can't be fat.

You can't be short.

You can't be tall.

You can't be any height or weight at all.

It may not make sense or be too silly, but it's true.

These silly rules are just for you.

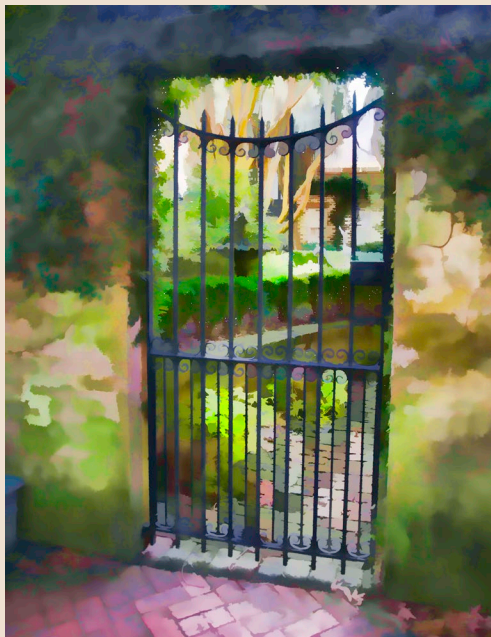
You cannot come to my house early.

You cannot come to my house late.



You cannot come
to my house on time.

I will lock the gate.



You cannot go out and run.

You cannot do anything that's fun.

These rules may really be a crock.

But you CAN sit in the hall and pretend that
you're a rock.



You don't want to pretend you are a rock, that is
tough,

You still can't do anything, sure enough.

You can't look up.

You can't look down.

You cannot smile.

You cannot frown.

You can't be sad.

You can't be happy.

You can't be bad.

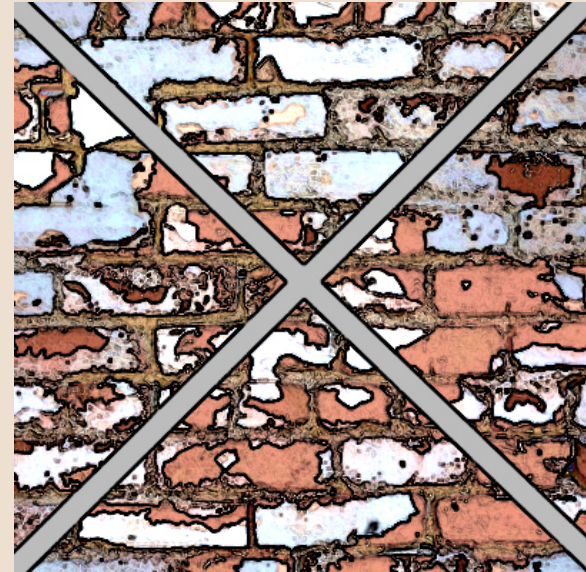
It's just not fair,

go take a nappy.

Don't look out the window.



Don't stare at the wall.



Do what you want as long

as it is nothing at all.

But wait, we have problem a here.

You can't do "nothing at all", because that's another rule, I fear.

These rules do not make any sense at all, especially playing rock while sitting in the hall.

But there are more as you will see.

They are just for you, and they are free.

You can't go swimming in the pool.

You can't stay home or go to school.

You cannot play on your tablet or watch tv.

You cannot sleep in bed with your mommy,
or stay up late with mom or dad.

Are you glad, sad or mad?



You can't be glad, sad or mad.

Those are the rules.

You can't go to sleep.

You can't stay awake.

You can't read your books,



or have a pet snake.

You can't do this.

You can't do that.

You can't do something.

You can't do nothing.

Those two rules are a real dumb thing.

Don't look at the floor, don't look the clock.

Just sit in the hall while you play rock.



You CAN play rock.

You can't play stone.

You can't play sand.

You can't play phone.

You can't stand on the stairs,



Or sit on the floor.

You can't have a teddy bear,

Anymore.

You may protest.

You may complain.

These rules are so foolish,

They are a real pain.

You can't eat burgers, pizza or fries.

You can't eat ice cream or pies.

No cake or muffins will you see.



All you can eat is broccoli.

Broccoli is oh so yummy.

It is very happy in your tummy.

You don't like broccoli you say.

I'll finish the story, don't go away.



I have another silly rule for you to here.

You can't be far.

You can't be near.

You cannot jump or climb or fall.

You can't do much of anything at all.

But, of course, you CAN pretend to be a rock while you sit in the hall.



You cannot go to parties,
or play with friends.

Will these stupid rules never end?

Goodness Gracious What CAN You DO?

?

That depends.

Think of something you would like to do.

Are you thinking of something that would be fun for you?

You cannot do that, it's true.

You can't do this,

You can't do that.

You can't be thin.

You can't be fat.

Singing is not allowed at all.

While you pretend to be a rock as you sit in the hall.

And absolutely no poop jokes.

They are so tiresome to us grownup folks.



You say you cannot be so lazy.

All these rules will make you crazy.

With all these things you cannot do, you want to know what's good for you.

Vegetables still tops the list of foods to eat.



They sure beat ice cream as a treat.



Table manners are so cool.

I know, that is a terrible rule.



Of course you can

ALWAYS be good,

And not run wild.

Though it would be

much more fun to be an

active child.

So you protest, you say NOT FAIR.

You will do all these things and see if I care.

WELL, THAT MAKES SENSE!

THESE RULES ARE SILLY.

THEY MAKE YOUR BRAIN SPIN WILLY NILLY.



Okay, okay, you are right.

**Things are not dark,
they are really bright.**

You CAN have fun and run and play.



Today, tomorrow and yesterday.

You can't eat pizza all the time,

But now and then is really fine.

You can even sleep a little in mommy's bed,

but your bed is the best place to rest your head.

Sometimes you can even stay up late, when your
parents say that's great.

**But best of all think of all the things you
love to do, and do them over and over
until you are through.**

So now my silly story is done.

Wreck the house and have some fun.

Whoops, poppa (*grandpa, momma, daddy, etc.*)
just made another error.

You still can't wreck the house or be a terror.

No, wrecking the house should not be done.

But being a terror can be such fun.

What I really want is for you to be happy,

And now it's
time for
poppa's
nappy.

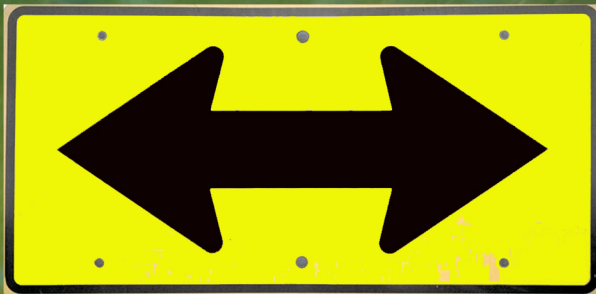
Love,
Poppa



You Can't Do That
You Can't Do That



Hey, This is the back cover



Rules, rules and more annoying rules