





**“Look, Mommy, look!”**

But Mommy stays engrossed in her tome “Class room disciplin  
Boxing” and so it is I who answers:

**“Yes Johnny, what is it this time?”**

**“Look Mister, what are those bulls doing?”**,  
and he points at a swirling mob of animals in the distance, almost  
haze of hanging dust.

I take out my field glasses for a closer look.

**“Sadly, those are not bulls in that pen, but only oxen, and th  
very nervous because there’s a big lion not far from them st  
them.”**

I know what little Johnny’s next question will be, which gives m  
to think about the answer.

**“So why should they be so nervous, Mister? Together the  
stronger than that one mangy lion!”**

**“Maybe mangy, maybe not. But I don’t think those oxen k**

“After all, we have a parallel example in our class rooms. Just like the pupils maths they will not cope with, and they’ll doff their hats to the ones who do. Assembly line workers, uncritical consumers, frantic achievers, all united in their unhappy insecurities, and servants of the ‘system’.”



Little Johnny just looks at me pityingly, not a bad reaction after understanding squat, but his mother does me the honours:

“I couldn’t help overhearing that bit of cynicism. And I do you – the school curricula are often the servant of mass consumer materialism.” (I’m beginning to like this lady for her tremendous confidence.) “But it’s not all doom and gloom. Some of the learners have been inspired and are asserting themselves with certain forms of alternative education. Of course, class discipline has become a bit of a problem, but I hope for this new kick-boxing approach..... although legislation is a problem.”



When she shows us a picture in her book with a teacher in the kitchen and a pupil holding a knife flying out of the class room window, I recover more quickly than I:

**“But Mommy, what will happen when the pupils also learn k**

Mommy is prepared:

**“The book recommends that teachers wear special kitchen knives which the pupils will not be allowed to bring to school. So it’s a contest.”**

It was probably tongue-in-cheek, but it doesn’t really matter:

**“Sounds like changing the curriculum might be a better option.”**