

Dickie Fleegle was the perfect kid in seventh grade. But then *The Eighth* hit. It hit hard. Suddenly, for the 1966-67 school year, Dickie had a fresh, heavy load on his mind:

- Would he ever get to park at Kettles Cozy Corner before they installed the sex warning siren?
- Could he ever live down those notorious nicknames, including something "Famous"?
- Would he and the Gayward Waywards get caught and mouthwashed for perverting the lyrics to their favorite songs?
- Where could he turn for trustworthy information involving The Delta Zone Down There?
- When the Ruskies dropped The Big One on Packerland County, who would be lucky enough to sit behind Margaret Seehorn?
- How many more excruciating In Stirs would the "morally bankrupt" Dickie have to endure?
- Was staring at a mini-skirt a mortal sin?
- Did he really look dapper in The Full Cleveland?
- Would his Raucous Rooster crew ever get their words right? "Contrainterception"? Duh!
- Where did he stand on the major "isms" of their era: sexism, racism, militarism, catechism?
- Would his father ever get over a debilitating depression? And what about Strap?
- Why would Tiffany in stretch pants from Boobs Galore! choose Dickie over JFK?
- How long could he go on denying that Jeanie was not his girlfriend?
- Was there any way he could still win the Scholar Athlete Award?
- Did his neighbor murder her husband?
- When would he ever be able to bench press more than Dipsy, his sixth-grader sister?

The world piles it high in *The Eighth*— and much of the rest of our lives still seems to be SO EIGHTH! *Dickie in The Eighth* is a soul-searching reminiscence by Richard Quinten Fleegle Jr. III, a proud man willing to embarrass himself to reveal to his kids and grandkids the messy, amusing, life-altering realities of growing up in Stillwater Springs, Wisconsin, in the 60s and Lima, Peru, in the early 80s.

Dickie in The Eighth is published in two separate volumes. This is the first. The second, *Dickie in The Eighth: Semester 2*, contains Dickie's repeat of the Eighth, this time as a teacher.

Dickie
in The Eighth

Semester 1

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by Richard Fleegle Jr.