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The Kids at the Alternative School are Mad at Tom

Rick Stansberger

so they write BITE ME and DIE TOM
on the classroom walls in colored

chalk and draw Tom's picture with a
bullet hole in his head. "Make the

blood look real," one of them says.
They're mad because he won't let them

leave the building when they want. So
they write BITE ME and DIE TOM and

SHUT UP. And then they change their
minds.

The hole in Tom's head gets covered
with hair. DIE becomes a green cat.

Someone twines blue flowers around
SHUT UP. And someone else chalks a

fat peach, which, instead of a stone,
holds a crescent Moon surrounding

with her arms the sun.