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## Professional Detachment

Curtis L. Todd

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## Professional Detachment

Curtis L. Todd  
*Atlanta Metropolitan State College*

Thanks for offering, but no,  
I can't take any those fresh eggs  
They're beautiful  
Nor any of those mustard greens  
Though I'm sure they would be delicious for dinner

Yes, my mother is doing well  
Thank you for asking  
Yes, she told me she saw you at the drug store  
Oh, no, thank you  
Her garden is overflowing – we can't keep them picked fast enough  
And her chickens keep the *fridge* well stocked  
Yes, it is great being back  
No, I don't miss the city

I'm cutting down on sweets  
But no, I'm sure the pound cake is still divine – as I remember  
Nothing to drink – thank you for offering

No, not married or any children yet  
Yes, I'll be in church this Sunday  
Sister and brother are fine, papa too  
Thank you for asking

This is a professional visit  
I'm the new social worker for the county  
Working with the elderly, making sure you have everything you need  
There are few questions I need to ask

Yes, I remember  
Yes, you are still my favorite Sunday School teacher

Well yes, of course, I will save you a seat  
On the third pew right?  
Near the Madonna and Child stained glass window  
You're welcome  
God bless you too

Discussion questions for the Poem *Professional Detachment*:

1. For rural social workers, is this a situation that arises often?
2. How would you work with the issue of dual relationships in this situation?
3. How do you think his former Sunday School teacher felt about his new role in her life?
4. Was there another way for the social worker to approach this client that might have made this first interaction easier?
5. Was it appropriate to agree to save his client a seat in church? Explain.