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## **011**

**by Ava Day Lugo**

011 years of laughter  
011 years of cheer  
011 years of wallowing  
011 years of fear  
011 years of fun  
011 years of brains  
011 years of courage  
011 years of pain  
011 years of doubt  
011 years of hope  
011 years of success  
011 years of failure  
011 years of people  
Avoiding me like a stranger...

011 years of agony  
And 011 years of tears -  
of speaking, singing, screaming, to all of those who'll hear

011 years of going distances  
No matter short or far  
011 years of not knowing  
who my true friends really are.

Most people, they forget how there's a 0 in 011 -  
they ignore it, or delete it, or simply leave it out  
Sometimes I feel like the 0  
And think that I don't count  
My heart is sad and lonely,  
My emotions are distressed  
My body's numb, and hollow,  
And I sigh that I haven't any real friends.

I look over yonder  
Near the classrooms next door  
and I search for peers to hang with  
the ones who aren't a bore

My birthday came round quickly  
A party planned with only family; no others who'd attend  
But to my surprise, true friends arrived bearing gifts in their hands!

My heart, it started pounding  
My mind lit up with joy!  
I finally fit in without faking  
Long conversations with the new friends that I'm making  
They stick up for me and really care  
When I'm feeling blue they make me red by complimenting my hair.

Hope is the light that keeps the darkness from closing in -  
If you stay with it your "011" year will be a big win.