

Lost Property

by J. Richards

"Lost property's alive"
Exclaimed a little boy called Keith
"The socks look like they're moving
On the jackets underneath."

Quite soon the cloakroom filled right up
With pupils and with staff
The girls looked on in horror
While the boys began to laugh

"There must be something living
At the bottom of the bin"
Whispered Molly through pink braces
As she put her contacts in

Miss Edwards thought it was a rat
Attracted by the mould
"These clothes should just be thrown away,"
She said, "they're five years old!"

Billy Baker thought it was
A squirrel from the park
That had come in through the window
And was just having a lark.

"Perhaps it's dangerous," said Miss Moore
"Oh, what if it's a snake?"
But Mr. Bennett just thought
The whole thing was a mistake

"There's quite a breeze in here," he said,
"It's just the wind you saw,"
But as he spoke the socks began to squirm
Just as before

"Of course," he said, "I could be wrong
But it might have strong jaws
And I'll not put my hand in
Where there might be teeth or claws!"

Headmaster had a worried look,
"You don't think it's a fox?!"
I saw one just this morning
In the car park, in a box."

Daisy Dean from year one said
"I think it's just a kitten
That felt a little playful
And jumped in to find a mitten"

The caretaker was looking on
And hoping very much
That this might be his rabbit
That was missing from its hutch

Then cook mouthed "giddy Aunty!"
But the words would not come out
As the bin of old abandoned clothes
Began to rock about.

And as it shook
The clothes on top began to jump and bubble
And tiny Ted looked up and said
"I think this spells trouble!"

Cook cried "it's time for action, chaps
I've brewed a broth to kill it
So, stand back, now I'm coming through
I wouldn't want to spill it!"

Then Jeff the gardener rushed in
He seemed in quite a hurry,
"I'll weed this out by force," he said,
"So, Cook, put down your curry!"

So, diving in with hoe in hand
The gardener made haste,
With monsters in lost property
There is no time to waste!

A moment later, Jeff was gone,
And as his shoes descended
The music teacher sang top C
And wailed, "let this be ended!"

But no one knew quite what to do
For all were gripped with fear,
Until in came Miss Brown who asked
"What's going on in here?"

The story left a hundred lips
But Miss Brown kept her cool
"I'll have a look," she said,
I'm sure there's nothing wrong at all.

She walked towards lost property
With cautious, steady paces,
And when she grabbed the bin
Chins dropped on fifty awestruck faces.

With all the strength of twenty men
Miss Brown held up her prize
Then tipped it upside down
Before a hundred startled eyes.

Out fell poor Jeff, though not alone
But closely followed by.....
The twin of Billy Baker
With a twinkle in his eye.

Timmy tried to stand up straight
But he was far too dizzy
"Is Billy here?" he asked, "Oh brother,
Look, have I been busy!"

And, half cross-eyed, held something up
"Look, Bill, Your Arsenal hat!"
"Oh! Thank you Tim" said Billy,
"I've looked everywhere for that!"