For my grandad, who would have liked a self-returning walking stick – H.S.



Information text by Hilary McGough

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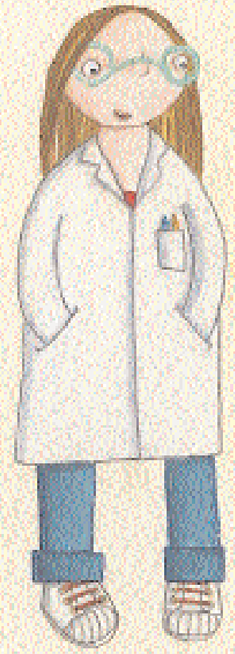
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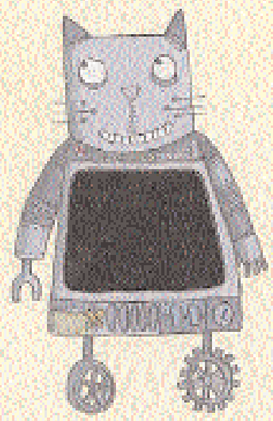
DIGBY. INTRODUCTIONS.

Dotty inventions and some real ones too.

By Roger McGough
illustrated by Holly Swain



NAME : PROFESSOR DOTTY DABBLE
AGE : 25 YEARS
BORN : LINCOLN
JOB : INVENTOR



NAME : DIGBY
AGE : 43 LIGHT YEARS
BORN : OUT THERE
JOB : LABORATORY ASSISTANT

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

"Door, Digby, door,"
called out Professor Dotty Dabble,
up to her elbows in a spaghetti
of electrical wiring.

Digby scuttled up the wall
and across the ceiling to collect
the morning mail.

Without bothering
to open the envelopes,
Digby x-rayed their contents:

"Telephone bill… gas bill… water bill… duck bill…
Mad Inventor's Monthly, and an invitation to enter
your best invention and win the holiday of a lifetime."

"Where?" asked Dotty.

"At the National Science Museum."

"Humph! Doesn't sound like
the holiday of a lifetime to me."

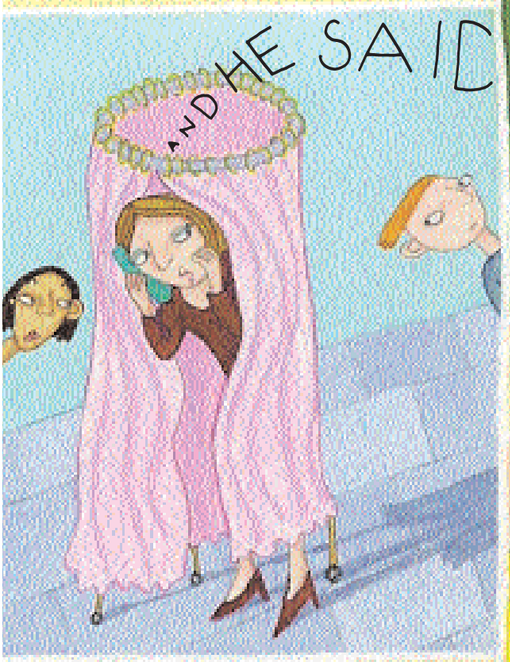
"No, that's not the prize," said Digby,
"that's where the competition
is taking place."

"Oh, in that case, Digby, I think
we should enter. The only trouble is,
which invention do we choose?"

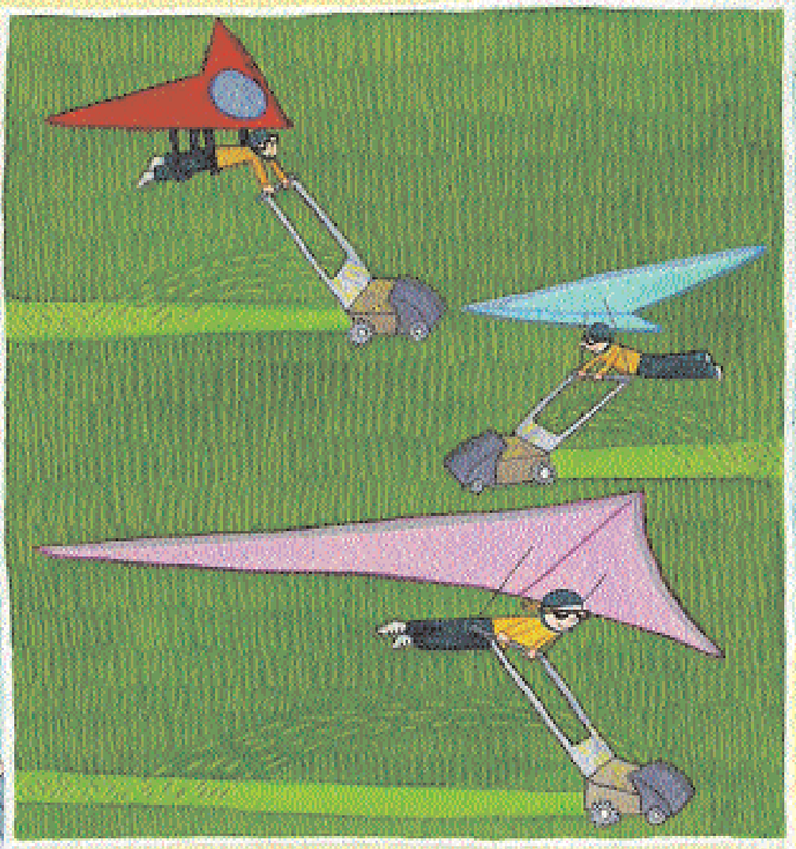
Digby listed some of Dotty's most famous gadgets:



A chocolate cup—
simply add hot water and
drink before it melts.



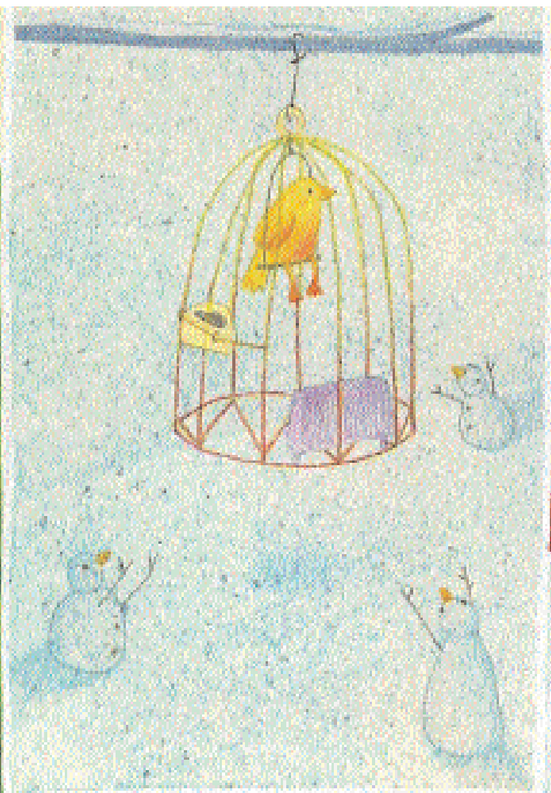
A mobile phone booth
for shy mobile phone
users.



The mower-glider—hang glide and
mow the lawn at the same time.

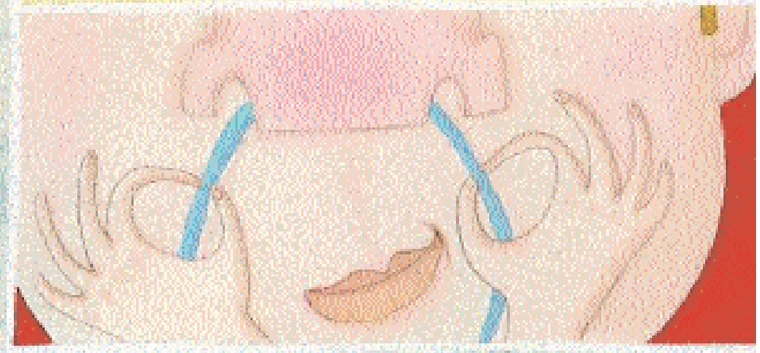


Voice-activated socks.



Centrally-heated
birdcages—for
budgies who like to
be outside in winter.

Nasal-floss—the last word
in nasal hygiene.





Thermal dentures—false teeth
that keep the mouth warm.

When he had finished, Digby looked at the pen in his hand.

"Is this one of your inventions too, Professor?" he asked.

"Probably," said Dotty in a mumbly sort of voice.

Digby's mouse clicked on to BALLPOINT to see if the professor was correct.

