

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



Information text by Hilary McGough

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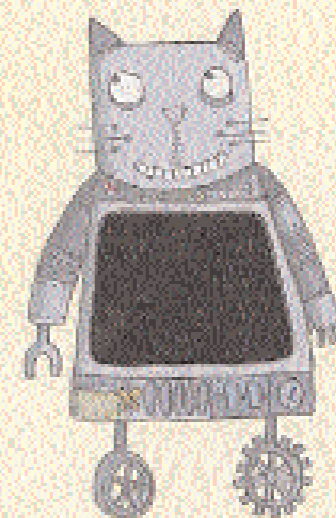
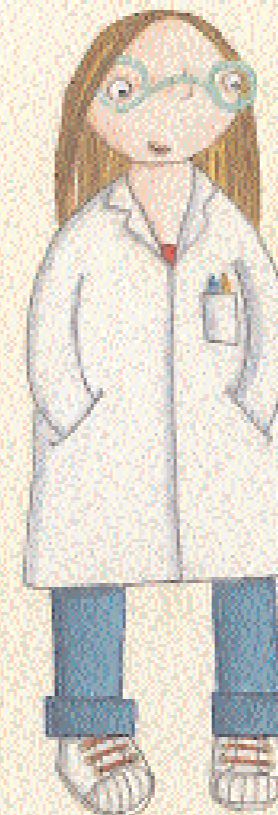
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DIGBY. INTRODUCTIONS.



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

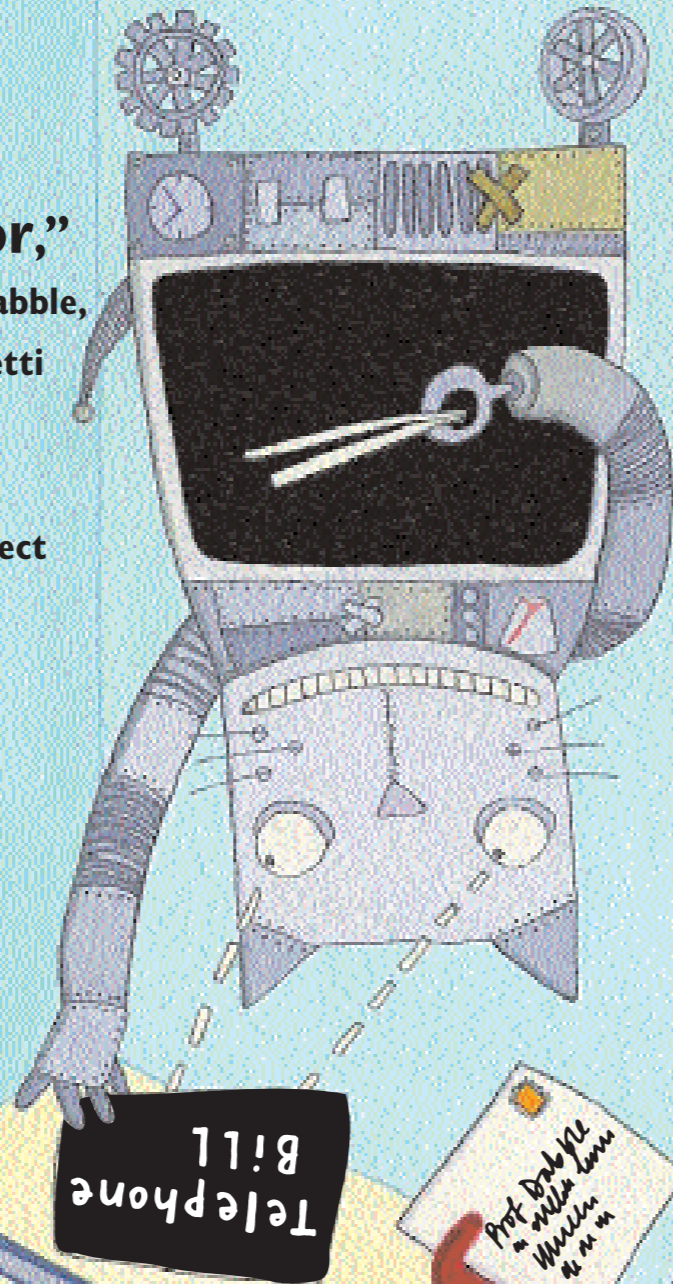
NAME : DIGBY
AGE : 43 LIGHT
YEARS
BORN : OUT THERE
JOB : LABORATORY
ASSISTANT

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.



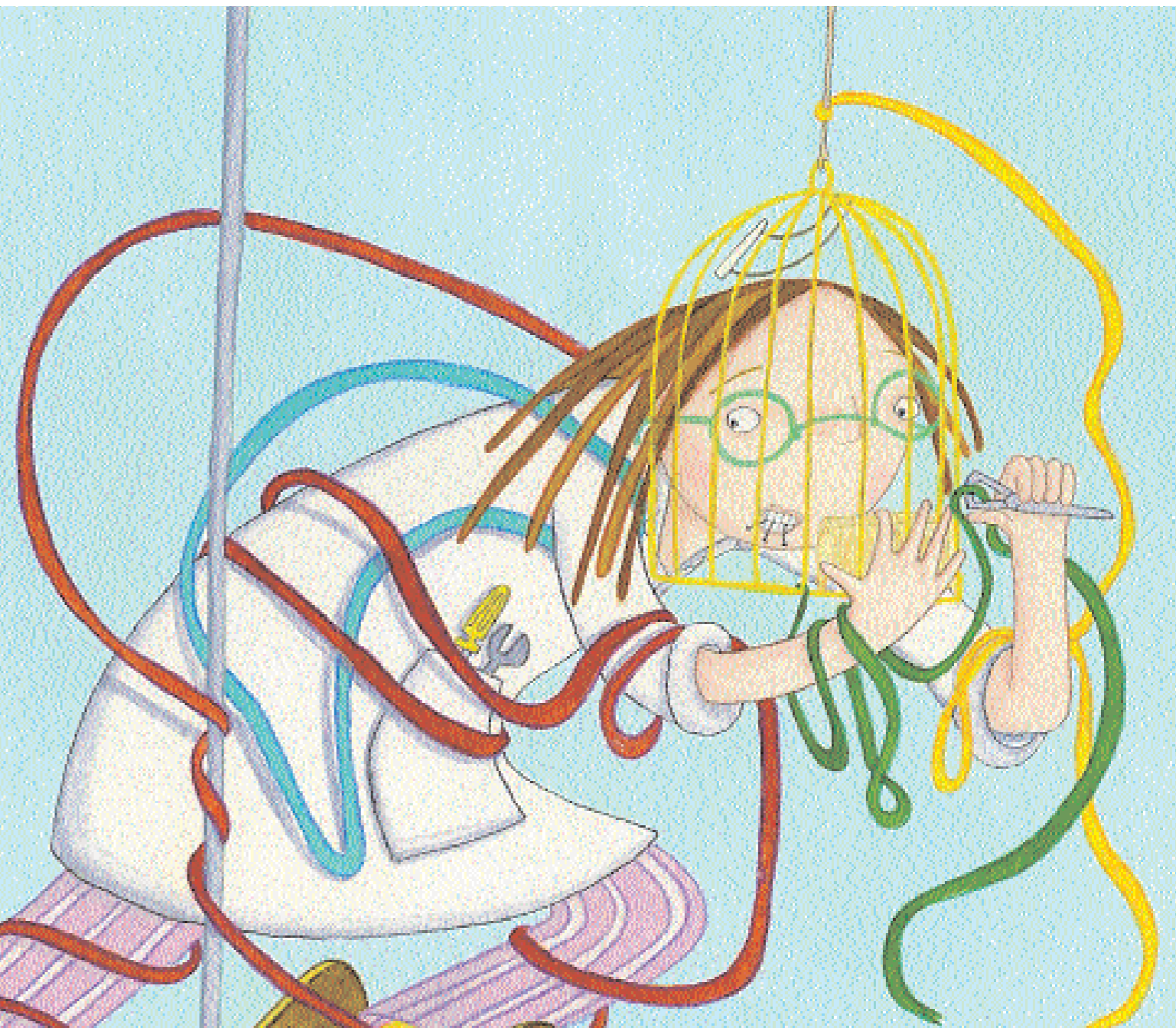
Telephone Bill

Prof. D. Dabble
is a million times
as smart as
me

Prof. D. Dabble
is a million times
as smart
as me

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.”

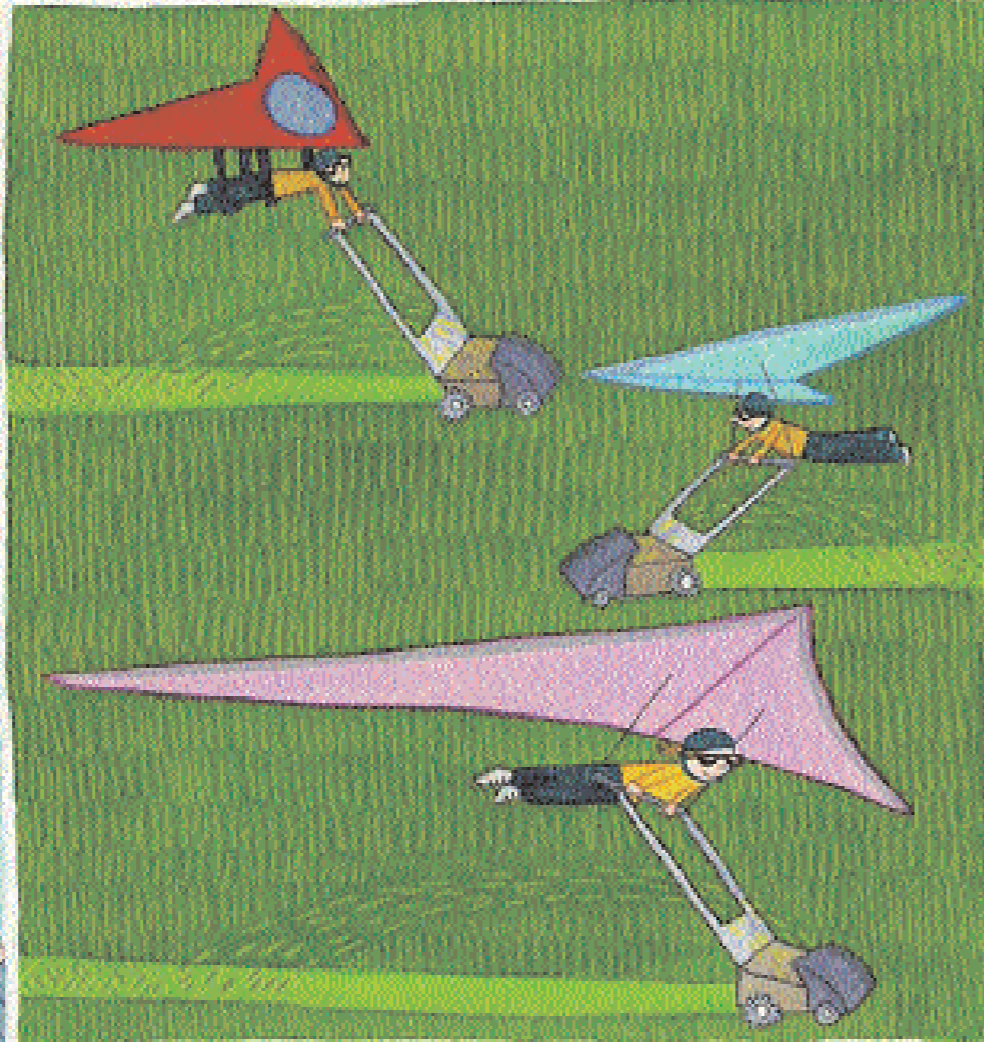
“No, that’s not the prize,” said Digby, “that’s where the competition is taking place.”

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

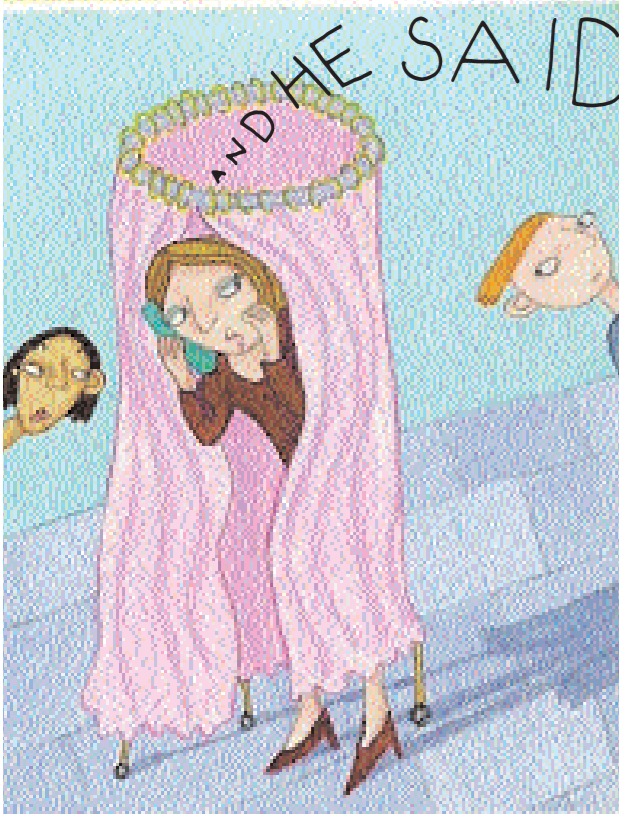
Digby listed some of Dotty's most famous gadgets:



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



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



A mobile phone booth
for shy mobile phone
users.

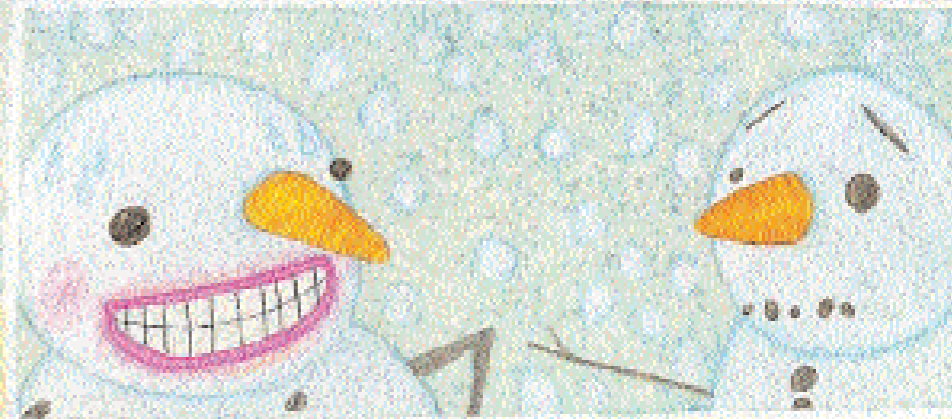
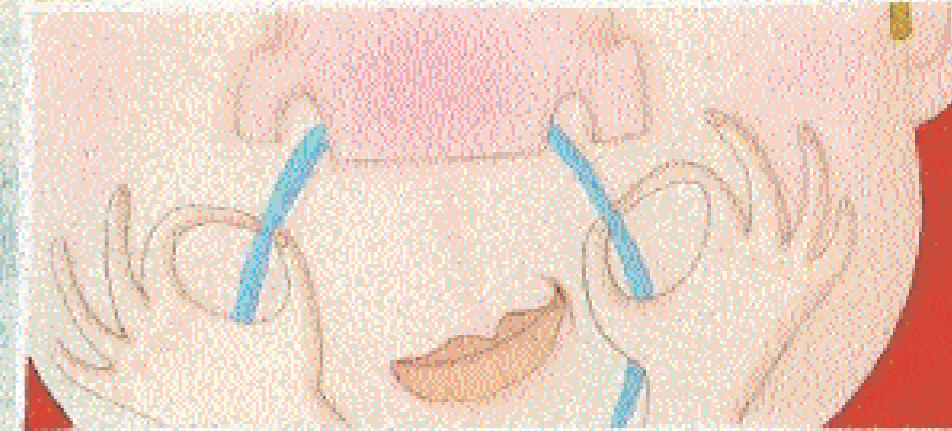


Voice-activated socks.



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.

