

1. I'm Great at Almost Catching Things

I'm great at almost catching things.
I nearly catch them all.
Today I almost caught a stick
and almost caught a ball.

I almost caught an apple,
and an orange, and a pear.
I almost caught a cupcake
and a giant teddy bear.

I almost caught a dozen eggs.
I almost caught a bowl.
I almost caught a glass of milk
and then a casserole.

I almost caught a pot of soup
and several cans of paint.
Then mom walked in and saw the mess.
I thought that she might faint.

I miss things by so little.
I'm surprised she doesn't see
I'm practically an expert.
She should be more proud of me.

2. The Perfect Cake

Today's my mother's birthday.
She's a connoisseur of cakes.
I tried to bake a masterpiece
but made a few mistakes.

I couldn't find the flour,
so I stirred in mashed potatoes,
then turned it red as roses
by including stewed tomatoes.

I knew that eggs were needed,
but is seventeen too many?
We had no milk or butter,
so I couldn't put in any.

The sugar was the weirdest part;
it tasted just like salt!
Her "cake" came out like meatloaf,
which was clearly all my fault.

Mom said, "This cake is perfect
and you've totally succeeded!
You made it with a lot of love,
and that is all I needed."

3. Larry the Leprechaun

Larry the Leprechaun didn't like green.
He cried, "It's the worst color I've ever seen!
It might be okay for a bush or a tree,
but green is a color you won't find on me.

"I'm not fond of olive, or forest, or lime.
I don't like chartreuse, neon, clover, or thyme.
I shudder at shamrock and juniper too.
But I'm not allowed to wear purple or blue.

"They tell me I have to wear green every day,
and shouldn't wear orange, magenta, or gray.
Well, sorry, I have to be true to myself.
A leprechaun's more than some silly green elf.

"And that's why, regardless of what people say,
I no longer celebrate Saint Patrick's Day.
From now on, I'm dressing in pink, white, and red
to celebrate Saint Valentine's Day instead."

4. Super Eraser

I bought a new "Super Eraser" today.
They said it would make all mistakes go away.
It seemed quite unlikely and, honestly, weird,
but—swipe!—and my Brussels sprouts just
disappeared.

I blasted my math with another small swipe.
My bedtime went poof! when I gave it a wipe.
This thing was amazing! I grinned ear-to-ear,
then looked for more things I could make disappear.

I zapped Monday mornings. Trombone lessons too.
I rubbed on the rain and away it all flew.
I made homework vanish. It melted away.
I wiped away chores and left nothing but play.

This Super Eraser was perfect for me,
and something I figured my family should see.
I ran to the backyard to put on a show.
That's strange. They were just here a minute ago.

5. My Brother's in Love with His Mirror

My brother is falling in love with his mirror.
At first, I had doubts. Now, it couldn't be clearer.
He spent today gazing upon his reflection
while whispering words of romantic affection.

He straightened his hair and put on his best shirt,
then said, "Hey, good lookin'," like some kind of flirt.
He waved at himself as he batted his eyes
then tilted his head and let out a few sighs.

My brother's behavior is honestly odd.
He smiled at himself with a wink and a nod,
then blew a few kisses and started to blush.
The mirror is clearly my brother's new crush.

I didn't know why he was acting this way
when I saw him eyeing his mirror today.
I figured it out, though—it wasn't that hard—
when I saw him give it a Valentine's card.

6. I Let My Sister Cut My Hair

I had to get a haircut.
It was looking much too long.
I let my sister cut it.
I mean, what could she do wrong?

She clipped some bald spots here and there.
She whacked the sides a little.
And then she shaved a three-inch stripe
directly down the middle.

She chopped some sections super short,
left others long and wild,
then shaved one eyebrow off before
she looked at me and smiled.

I don't think that I'll let her
give me haircuts anymore.
Or maybe I'll just wait a while;
at least until she's four.

7. An Ogre Came over for Dinner

An ogre came over for dinner.
He showed up with ice cream and cake.
We thought, "It can't hurt,
since he brought us dessert,"
so we asked him to join us for steak.

He crushed the first chair that he sat on.
He busted the table in two.
He ranted and raved

and was badly behaved,
like a rhino escaped from the zoo.

He smashed every plate in the kitchen.
He shattered each saucer and cup.
He broke every bowl.
He was out of control
as he ran around tearing things up.

He broke all the beds in our bedrooms.
He even demolished a door.
He cracked all the walls
in the stairways and halls,
and he left several holes in the floor.

And when he was done causing damage,
although we all wanted to scream,
he said, "That was fun
but I really must run.
I hope you enjoy the ice cream."

8. Unsteady Teddy

I have a little teddy bear
I like to hug and hold.
But, yesterday, I told my mom,
"I think he has a cold."

I said, "I heard him sniffle,
and he seems to have a chill.
His forehead feels a little hot.
I swear my bear is ill.

"Let's take him to the doctor
who can diagnose diseases,
and cure him of his sniffles
and his shivers and his sneezes."

My mother said, "Don't worry dear.
You might not be aware,
but sniffles aren't uncommon
in your average teddy bear."

She said, "His nose is runny
and his eyes are red and puffy.
But I don't think he has a cold.
He's just a little stuffy."

9. Toothbrush Karaoke

While brushing my teeth after breakfast today,
I looked at my toothbrush and, what can I say?
It looked like a microphone there in my hand.
I thought of a song from my new favorite band.

I strolled to the living room singing that song.
My brother, surprised, started clapping along.
My sister stood up and applauded my tune.
She begged me to keep singing all afternoon.

I ran to my room where I sang to my frog.
My singing and dancing delighted our dog.
I chanted and rapped as I ran down the hall,
to croon to the mirror we had on the wall.

And that's when my mom and dad walked in the door,
complaining of slobber all over the floor.
They said my performance was totally cool,
except for the minty-fresh puddles of drool.

10. Things You Don't Need to Know

Don't test a rattlesnake's rattle.
Don't count the teeth of a shark.
Don't stick your head in the mouth of a bulldog
to find out what's making him bark.

Don't count the stripes on a tiger.
Don't squeeze an elephant's trunk.
Don't pet the scales of a boa constrictor
and don't lift the tail of a skunk.

Don't study spots on a leopard.
Don't check the charge of an eel.
Don't pull the claws on a grizzly bear's paws
regardless of how brave you feel.

Don't pull a porcupine's whiskers.
Don't touch a crocodile's toe.
Learn all you like, but try not to forget:
there are some things you don't need to know.