

Name: _____

1

The Case of the Missing Socks

by Lydia Lukidis

Oh no! Caleb's socks are missing, again! Will he be able to solve the mystery once and for all?

Characters (in order of appearance):

Caleb

Mom

Narrator 1

Narrator 2

Narrator 3

Melissa

Dryer



Caleb: Mooooooooooom!

Mom: Yes dear?

Caleb: Where are my socks? You know, the new ones with the gray and yellow stripes?

Mom: I don't know dear. Why don't you check the dirty hamper?

Narrator 1: Caleb runs to the hamper, but it is empty.

Caleb: My socks aren't there! Where else can they be?

Mom: Well, maybe they're clean and you put them in your drawer?

Narrator 2: Caleb runs to his room. He tears open his drawers, one by one.

Caleb: They're not here!

Mom: Check everywhere in your room. I know how messy your room can be.

Narrator 3: Caleb goes through his entire bedroom. He looks under his bed. He looks in his closet. He even looks in his fish tank. But he cannot find his new socks. Caleb is frustrated.

Caleb: First one of my green socks went missing, then my blue polka dot sock disappeared...then my red sock...then my orange checkered sock.

Narrator 1: Every week, it seems some of his socks go missing. Sometimes he just loses one sock. But today he lost a whole pair. That is the last straw! He runs to the kitchen to talk to his mom.

Caleb: Okay Mom, we have a serious situation. There's something very mysterious going on here. My new socks have vanished. Every day, another sock goes missing. Pretty soon I'll have none left and I'll have to go to school barefoot!

Mom: Caleb, don't exaggerate. I'm sure your socks are somewhere. Why don't you check the dryer? Sometimes small items get left behind.

Caleb: The dryer! That's it! The dryer is eating my socks!

Mom: Don't be ridiculous. Dryers don't eat things! Especially dirty socks.

Caleb: Mom, it's the most reasonable explanation.

Mom: I'm sure the socks will turn up.

Narrator 2: But Caleb knows they won't. They never do. That's the problem with adults; sometimes they just don't get it! Caleb runs upstairs to his bedroom. He begins to talk to his stuffed bear, Snuffles.

Caleb: You believe me, right Snuffles? I knew you would. You always understand!

Narrator 3: Caleb pauses to think for a moment.

Caleb: Okay, so this is what I have so far. It's been happening for almost two weeks. I give my dirty socks to Mom and then they mysteriously go missing. I have eleven single socks missing, and now, my new favorite pair of gray and yellow striped socks is missing. I'm convinced that the dryer is some kind of alien monster sent here to eat my socks. Every time I go down to the basement, I hear all kinds of strange noises. All kinds of BEEPS and BOOPS and BE-BOPS. That's probably the alien monster communicating with its alien family!

Narrator 1: Meanwhile, Caleb's sister, Melissa, listens at the door. She bursts into his room.

Melissa: Haha! You've really gone bananas this time, Caleb. You actually believe the dryer is an alien monster?

Caleb: Hey, this is confidential!

Melissa: Then don't leave your door open.

Caleb: Well, do you have any better explanations?

Melissa: Caleb, you probably just lost your socks. That's all there is to it.

Narrator 2: But Caleb had enough of everyone making fun of him.

Caleb: I'm going to prove it to you! Then we'll see who has the last laugh.

Melissa: Yeah, we'll see! Just be careful that the alien monster doesn't eat you first!

Narrator 3: Melissa leaves the room. Caleb turns to his stuffed animal.

Caleb: Well, Snuffles, I guess it's just you and me. We can do this! What we need is...what we need is a plan. We need to get to the bottom of this!

Narrator 1: Caleb puts on his special Superman cape. Instantly, he feels braver.

Caleb: This is the plan: we will take the flashlight and go down to the dryer in the basement. We need to investigate.

Narrator 2: Caleb attaches Snuffles to his belt, picks up the flashlight, and goes downstairs with determination. But he suddenly stops. Caleb doesn't like going to the basement. It's dark and scary. There are all kinds of weird noises that come from the basement.

Dryer: BEEP! BOP! BE-BOP-A-LOP....

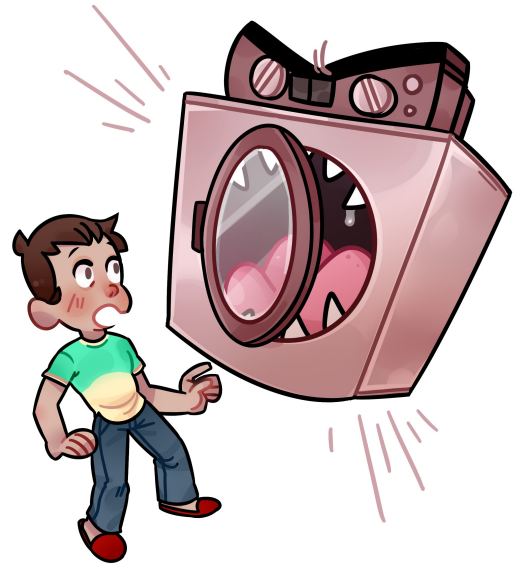
Narrator 3: Caleb wonders what the alien monster is trying to say. He pauses for a moment, then continues. He flies down the stairs and finds the dryer. He opens its door in a hurry and reaches his arm inside. He finds a piece of lint, but no socks. He looks behind the dryer, but no socks.

Caleb: Well Snuffles, looks like we're too late. The alien monster must have eaten them! Let's take a look around for clues.

Narrator 1: Caleb continues to look around. But the truth is, he doesn't know what he's looking for.

Mom: Caleb! Dinner!

Caleb: I'm coming! I guess I will have to take a break from the investigation. After all, even the biggest superheroes need to eat.



Narrator 2: Caleb starts to walk toward the basement stairs. Suddenly, a furry gray creature with a bushy tail slinks across his path. Caleb jumps out of fright, but the creature makes a “meow” sound.

Caleb: Oh! It's just you, Dusty. You scared me, silly cat.

Narrator 3: Caleb is about to step around the cat when he notices something strange.

Caleb: Hey...wait a minute...

Narrator 1: Caleb shines his flashlight toward the cat in the shadows and sees something dangling from Dusty's mouth. He looks harder at the familiar gray and yellow striped fabric. It's one of his missing socks!

Caleb: Dusty! What are you doing with my sock?

Narrator 2: The cat lazily walks into the shadows. But Caleb follows him with the flashlight. Sure enough, Dusty walks over to a pile of old cushions where he likes to sleep, and there are all Caleb's socks – a huge pile of them! Dusty looks up proudly.

Caleb: You are a sneaky cat, but I'm sure glad I finally solved the mystery of my missing socks!

Narrator 3: Once again, Caleb heads upstairs for dinner. But this time he feels proud. He's a real superhero after all!

About the Author



Lydia Lukidis is a published children's author with a multi-disciplinary background that spans the fields of literature, theater and puppetry.

Lydia's picture book, *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine*, is now available. Find out if Mocha will ever get his silly son to sleep!

Lukidis, Lydia. *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine* ISBN: 978-0-9917402-7-7

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1. In the story, "The Case of the Missing Socks," what does Caleb *think* is the cause of his disappearing socks?
 - a. Caleb's sister, Melissa, is hiding them from him.
 - b. Caleb's mom loses them when she does laundry.
 - c. The dryer in the basement is an alien monster that is eating Caleb's socks.
 - d. The family's cat, Dusty, is taking Caleb's socks to the basement.

2. Why does Caleb put on his Superman cape before he investigates the basement?

3. What is Caleb afraid will happen if his socks keep disappearing?
 - a. His feet will be cold at nighttime.
 - b. His mom will not buy him any more socks.
 - c. He will be teased at school.
 - d. He will have to go to school barefoot.

4. Which word best describes how Caleb felt when he finally found his missing socks?

confused

proud

frustrated

shocked

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Match each vocabulary word from "The Case of the Missing Socks" with the correct definition.

_____ 1. investigate

a. bravery or courage; not giving up

_____ 2. ridiculous

b. sly or tricky

_____ 3. confidential

c. to explore the facts in order to find an answer

_____ 4. explanation

d. a basket used for laundry

_____ 5. sneaky

e. private or secret

_____ 6. exaggerate

f. very silly or unreasonable

_____ 7. determination

g. to make something seem worse than it really is

_____ 8. hamper

h. a statement that describes why something is the way it is

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In the story, “The Case of the Missing Socks,” Caleb wears a Superman cape and takes his stuffed bear, Snuffles, to the basement in order to search for his missing socks. These things make him feel brave and help him face his fear of the mysterious dryer.

When you feel scared about a situation you are facing, what helps you to be brave? Write your answer in complete sentences on the lines below.

[illegible]

ANSWER KEY

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1. In the story, "The Case of the Missing Socks," what does Caleb think is the cause of his disappearing socks? c.
 - a. Caleb's sister, Melissa, is hiding them from him.
 - b. Caleb's mom keeps losing them when she does the laundry.
 - c. The dryer in the basement is an alien monster that is eating Caleb's socks.
 - d. The family's cat, Dusty, is taking Caleb's socks to the basement.
2. Why does Caleb put on his Superman cape before he goes to investigate the basement?
Caleb puts on his Superman cape because wearing it makes him feel brave.
3. What is Caleb afraid will happen if his socks keep disappearing? d.
 - a. His feet will be cold at nighttime.
 - b. His mom will not buy him any more socks.
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4. Which word best describes how Caleb feels when he finally found his missing socks?
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ANSWER KEY

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Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

- | | |
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| c. 1. investigate | a. bravery or courage; not giving up |
| f. 2. ridiculous | b. sly or tricky |
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