

KEEP OUT!

Science Projects to Get Rid of Pests

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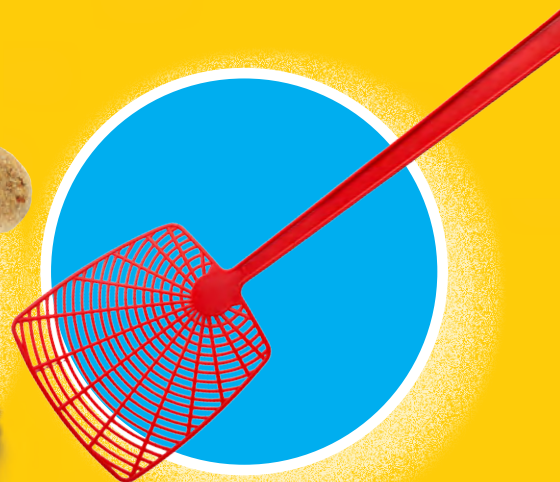
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A PEST IN MY ROOM

by miranda Bourne

MONDAY

Dear Journal,

My big brother Toby can be a pest! I think he's sneaking into my room, and I know he has done it before because one time he wrote in my journal. How did I know Toby did it? He signed his name!

I don't want him in my room because it's MY ROOM! So I decided to put a sign on my door.



I'm Reading my sisters
Journal - Toby

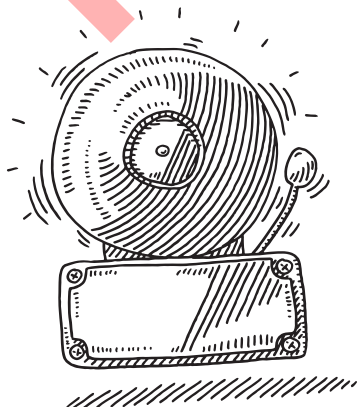
TUESDAY

The Keep Out! sign didn't work. I know that somebody is still coming into my room because I found a cup of applesauce on the floor. First, I don't like applesauce, and second, I would never be such a slob!

I asked Toby, "Did you put this applesauce in my room?" He didn't say anything and just snuck away quietly. That made me suspicious, so I decided to prove he was going into my room.

WEDNESDAY

Today I went to the store with my mom, and in one of the aisles, I saw an alarm system, which made me think of a way to catch Toby. I asked my mom if I could buy the alarm. She said, "It's way too expensive!"



clue #1



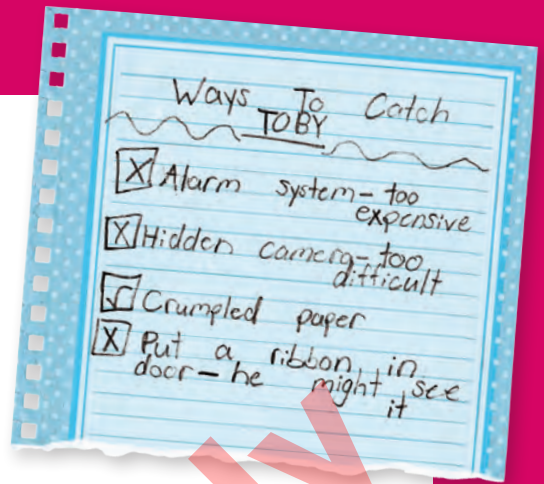
WEDNESDAY (cont.)

When we got back home, just as I opened the front door, I caught a glimpse of somebody running out of my room. I raced through the door, and then I remembered to take off my muddy shoes. That slowed me down, so by the time I got to my room, no one was there. I

looked for clues and saw a sock under my bed. Ah-ha! I picked it up and went over to my brother's room. He was reading, but he was suspiciously out of breath. I asked him, "Is this your sock?"

He said, "Shh! I'm trying to read!"

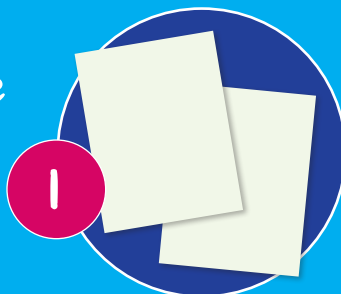
I decided to be scientific about catching the pest. (You know who!) I brainstormed ideas, picked the best one, and called it "Project Crumple." Then I set up the experiment in my room. First, I got some paper from my arts and crafts bin. Then I crumpled it up. Next, I put it under my fluffy carpet. When Toby comes in my room next time, he'll flatten the paper with his feet, and I'll know he was in my room!



clue #2

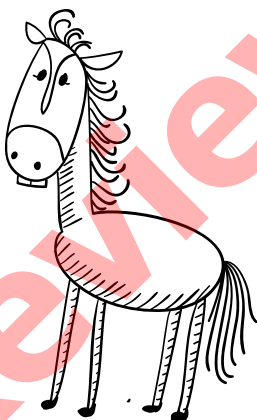


Project Crumple



THURSDAY

After my dance class today, I looked under my fluffy rug. The paper wasn't any different, but my toy horse, Buttercup, was missing. Whoever took her must have jumped over the rug! My experiment failed, but I am not giving up!



FRIDAY

I thought of another experiment and called it "Project Sticky." I'm going to catch the intruder with red glitter glue!* I put it on my doorknob a few minutes ago.

*intruder—someone who enters a place without permission



How to make a Glue Trap

- First, open the tube of colored glue carefully.
- Then, put some glue on a doorknob.
- Next, spread it thinly so no one can see it.
- Finally, wait for someone to touch it.



FRIDAY (cont.)

Right now, I'm in my room writing in my journal, and ... someone is trying to open my door, so I'm going to wait quietly. Beep! Beep! Oh, no, my tablet computer just made a noise. It scared the person, and I can hear footsteps going to the bathroom. I'll be back.

...

LATER

After I heard the footsteps, I raced out of my room and went to the bathroom. Toby was just about to wash his hands, and I said, "I caught you red-handed!" His right hand was red and glittery! "I know you've been going in my room!"

He finally admitted it! "But I have a good reason," he said.

"So, what is it?" I demanded.



proof!

"You were doing an art project on the kitchen table that I didn't want to ruin, so I ate my applesauce in your room because you have that cozy chair by a table. Then, when I was in there, I saw Buttercup. It made me think of a good idea for your birthday."

"Hmm ..."

"I went in your room later to get Buttercup because I needed her for your present. When I heard you coming, I grabbed Buttercup and ran. That's when my sock fell off in your room! And just now, I was going to put Buttercup back."

SATURDAY

Today is my birthday! I opened my gift from Toby, and it was a saddle for Buttercup. I love it! He wrote me a message in the card wishing me a happy birthday and saying he'd never go in my room again without permission. I believe him now.

My big brother can be a pest. But he can be nice, too! I told Toby that it was the best present ever.



Wishing you a day
full of nice surprises!

Happy Birthday
Miranda. I hope you are
surprised P.S I will
never go in your room
again without permission.

Toby *

