

***I Was a Third Grade Science Project by Mary Jane Auch***

When we got to my house, we took Arful right to the aquarium.

“He sees the fish,” Brian said.

“Yeah, but he doesn’t look very excited about them.” That surprised me, because they were pretty interesting to watch.

“That’s because the hair is in his eyes.” Brian picked up one of my sister’s barrettes from the coffee table. “This ought to fix it.” He grabbed a hunk of Arful’s hair and clipped it back to the top of his head.

Just then, Mom came in from the kitchen. “Interesting hairdo on the dog, Brian. Is he trying to grow out his bangs?”

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“We’re doing an experiment, Mrs. Buckner. I just thought Arful could see better with the hair out of his eyes.”

Mom ran her fingers through my hair. “I keep telling Josh that, but he bolts every time I pull out the Hairvac.”

“What’s a Hairvac?” Brian asked.

“Haven’t you ever seen it?” Before I could stop Mom, she was pulling the machine out of the closet. “This is the greatest invention in the world, Brian. It’s a hair cutter that attaches to your vacuum cleaner. Sit down, Josh. We’ll give Brian a demonstration.”

“Aw, Mom!” Before I could get away, she shoved me into a kitchen chair and plugged the thing in.

“The vacuum cleaner sucks up the hair,” she shouted over the roar, “then, the little blades in the Hairvac cut the hair off evenly. It’s neat, too. All the

cut hair just gets whisked away.” You’d think she was doing a TV commercial.

“Yeah, real neat!” I grumbled, feeling my scalp tingle where my hair was being vacuumed.

“Could you do that on Arful?” Brian shouted to Mom.

“I don’t know why not,” Mom yelled back. “I’ll Hairvac him as soon as I finish up with Josh.”