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### Here's What You Do if You Can't Find Your Shoe

Donna Cardon

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Perry, Andrea. *Here's what you do if you can't find your shoe*. Illustrated by Alan Snow. Atheneum Books, 2003. ISBN 0698983067. \$16.95. 32 pp.

Reviewer: Donna Cardon  
Reading Level: Primary  
Rating: Excellent  
Genre: Humorous poetry;  
Subject: Children's poetry; Inventions--Juvenile fiction

A dozen wacky poems make up this fun poetry collection. Each poem advertises a silly "invention" or service to solve some kind of problem. Some of the pesky problems are common, like finding a lost shoe. Others are more outlandish, like finding a leash to fit a giraffe. "Veggie-be-gone" helps kids keep vegetables out of their parent's shopping cart and "footsie floss" cleans lint from between toes. The poems range in length from two to five stanzas and all rhyme. The colored, cartoon-like illustrations of the inventions and their enthusiastic users are wonderfully charming. End papers sport schematics of many of the contraptions. The rhyme and meter of the poems have a Seuss-like quality. "We Stink Stoppers come with lotions and hoses/ and extra tight clothespins to wear on our noses." Perry delights in his verbal acrobatics throughout the book. The mood of the poems is accented by informal font that mimics handwriting. Snow's kid-pleasing illustrations frame the poems, surrounding them with lighthearted humor that perfectly compliments the text. One could wish that he had included more cultural variety among the invention users who are almost all white. Nonetheless, educators will enjoy reading the poems aloud, and then challenging their students to come up with their own inventions. Kids will enjoy reading the poems alone and looking at the detail of the illustrations. Fans of Silverstein's *A Light in the Attic*, and *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (Harper Collins, 1981 and 1974) will want to add this to their poetry collection.