

A Surprise Package in the Mail **by Shreyas Kulkarni**

I was watching TV when I heard the doorbell ring. When I opened the door, I found a small package. I opened it and found a coat with an attached note. It had words that were blackened out. It stated:

If you are reading this note, then you have received the coat of arms. It is an immensely powerful object. If you put it on, you cannot be seen, heard, or touched. It can transport you anywhere in the time-space spectrum. To turn it on, you must ■ You should not let ■ get the coat at all costs.

Your Fellow Crusader for Justice (Y.F.C.F.J)

I decided to find the ■. As I set out, I tripped on the box. I noticed a sticker on the package. It said: *Shipped from 12664 Ulysses Avenue, Denver*. I hopped onto my bike. As I was biking, I met Spencer.

He was a huge tattletale, and he had the uncanny ability to know when he was being lied to. So I told him where I was going. We biked in silence to Ulysses Avenue. You could tell there was an explosion there. I noticed another note on the ground.

If you are reading this, you wish to find the ■ You must go to the place where all shop. It is on 8th street. Good luck.

(Y.F.C.F.J)

"A riddle!" I thought miserably. Spencer said, "Well, $8 \times 2 = 16$. 16 Street? 16th Street!" he yelled in elation.

"And the place where everyone shops is the 16th Street Mall!" I chimed in. Spencer and I jumped onto our bikes and cycled to the 16th Street Mall. When we got there, we found a hidden note in the cement. It stated:

If you are reading this note, you have cracked my code have come here for the ■. To find the ■ you must find the soda machine and buy a soda can. The ■ will be in there.

(Y.F.C.F.J)

We burst into the mall. There were soda machines everywhere. Groaning with frustration, we inspected every machine. After several fruitless minutes, I found a

machine labeled "Soda Machine". Spencer pulled a wrinkly \$1.00 bill out of his pocket, got a soda. At the bottom of the soda can was a golden paperclip.

"Thanks! You just gave me the key to the most powerful weapon in the universe. I killed the author of all the notes, James Jones." Spencer said mockingly.

I lunged at him, but he had escaped into the crowd. I bounced onto my bike and sped after him.

"The coat is at my house!" I yelled. We raced to my house. As he grabbed the coat, I yelled, "Mom!" He froze. I explained everything to her and she called Spencer's mom. He got dragged into the car.

I tossed the paperclip into the fireplace and gave the coat to charity. And that was the end of the legendary coat of arms.

The End