

# *How I lost My Retainer*

**by Jacob Brown**

I used to wear some braces  
This straightened out my teeth  
Two bands of metal laces  
Had made my cuspids neat

My overbite was comely  
My bucked teeth were the rage  
In truth, I looked quite homely  
One tooth took center stage

So went I through the toil  
Of the stainless steel garrote  
He pulled the metal coil  
And a howl crept out my throat

Through sun and stormy weather  
Not sure I could abide  
It pulled my teeth together  
And shrank the great divide

After it was over  
My teeth were perfect pearls  
They gave me a retainer  
To secure my luck with girls

It's nearly half a decade  
Since I donned the plastic brace  
I blithely thank the men I paid  
To beautify my face

But as I grow in beauty  
So for all is not the case  
The plastic has turned gritty  
And it bears an awful taste

I munch it in my dreaming  
So it's worn out in the back  
White spots keep on appearing  
This, I dare say, must be plaque

So begins my poem  
And my cause to versify  
My need to clearly show'em  
That I surely would not lie

I lost my top retainer  
Which fell upon the floor  
Its requisite container  
I'd lost some years before

This happened not on purpose  
Or by malevolence  
I simply was too careless  
To contend for every chance

'Twas bound to meet my druthers  
As complacency made seem  
A night like all the others  
To sleep, perchance to dream

So slept I gently dreaming  
Of my peerless set of teeth  
Held perfect by a bracing  
Seldom worn but once a week

With tales my mind was teeming  
Of mother goose and grim  
I took to lucid dreaming  
So I changed them on a whim

My Dad was the Pied Piper  
And my cat talked with the queen  
I picked a peck of peppers  
And breathed fire, spouting steam

I had become a dragon  
So set myself to think  
Of hoarding a kings ransom  
But first to eat and drink

I passionately reasoned  
That I should have dreamt of sheep  
So mutton burst before me  
And I chewed them in my sleep

Outside I masticated  
Not on sheep, but plastic mould  
It was dilapidated  
By what I could not control

With my hunger mounting  
I ate nonstop for a week  
Alas, I started counting  
Which one shouldn't do with sheep

I dreamt I dreamt that teeth  
Were taught in schools proper dentition  
They worshipped Listerine  
And learned the dangers of attrition

They stoked a blazing fire  
To burn Smartys at the stake  
I started to perspire  
'Till I, sort of, was awake

I met a cat who fiddled  
And a dish could ambulate  
A spoon asked me a riddle  
Of how cattle fly in space

I somnolently took it out  
And set it on the post  
Retainers are uncomfortable  
And give me nightmares most

This prompted me to dream the sea  
From drool on my retainer  
It flowed into reality  
My pillow was the drainer

Then the nursery rhyme returned  
To fall out of my favor  
Morphed in mind, it doubtless turned  
A very different flavor

My cuspids caught the moonlight  
As I blanched and heard a boom  
The cow was briefly blinded  
So it crashed in the moon

As penitence I howled and moaned  
And panicked for a time  
If spacemen dig up lunar bones  
They'll find it fault of mine

Outside I stirred in slumber  
And let out an awful sound  
My covers shook asunder  
And the brace fell to the ground

It did not yell or tremble  
As it spiraled though the air  
Its flight abruptly dithered  
As it glanced across a chair

It came to rest quite softly  
On a hill of dirty socks  
It scared a large dust bunny  
Who mistook it for a fox

It lay there midst the rubble  
Of a fairly unkempt room  
Dust the size of gravel  
Is unknown to any broom

Then came an interloper  
Apt to sniffing 'round the floor  
It probably smelled my supper  
And so walked in through the door

He saw the wayward plastic  
Focused black and white, though clear  
Aside it was a spastic  
Being which sadly died of fear

My dog, penchant to trouble  
Revealed a crooked maw  
"My handsomeness will double  
If I put this bracing on"

His clever thoughts unfolding  
But clearly not thought through  
He later found the molding  
Quite enjoyable to chew

The chewing made him murky  
As he soon began to snore  
He dreamt of trees of jerky  
So he chewed it all the more