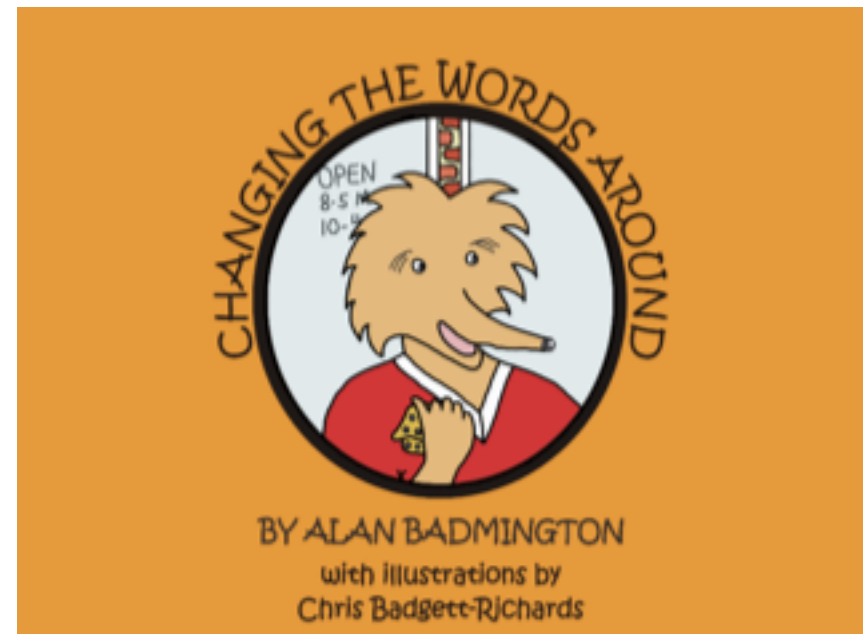


Changing the Words Around

by Alan Badmington

illustrated by Chris Badgett-Richards

- Originally part of the 2004 ISAD online conference
- To access the paper that accompanies the book - <http://www.mnsu.edu/comdis/isad7/papers/badmington7/badmington17.html>



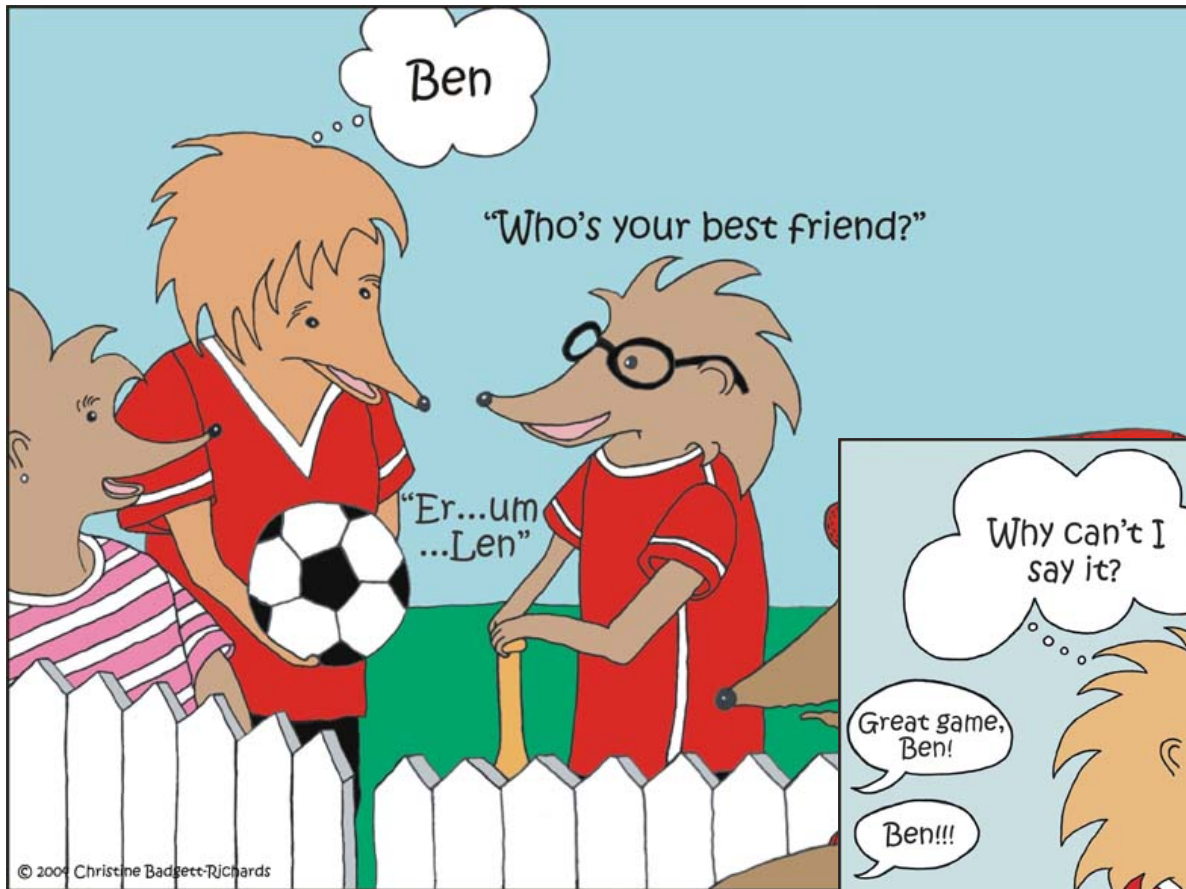


BY ALAN BADMINGTON

with illustrations by
Chris Badgett-Richards



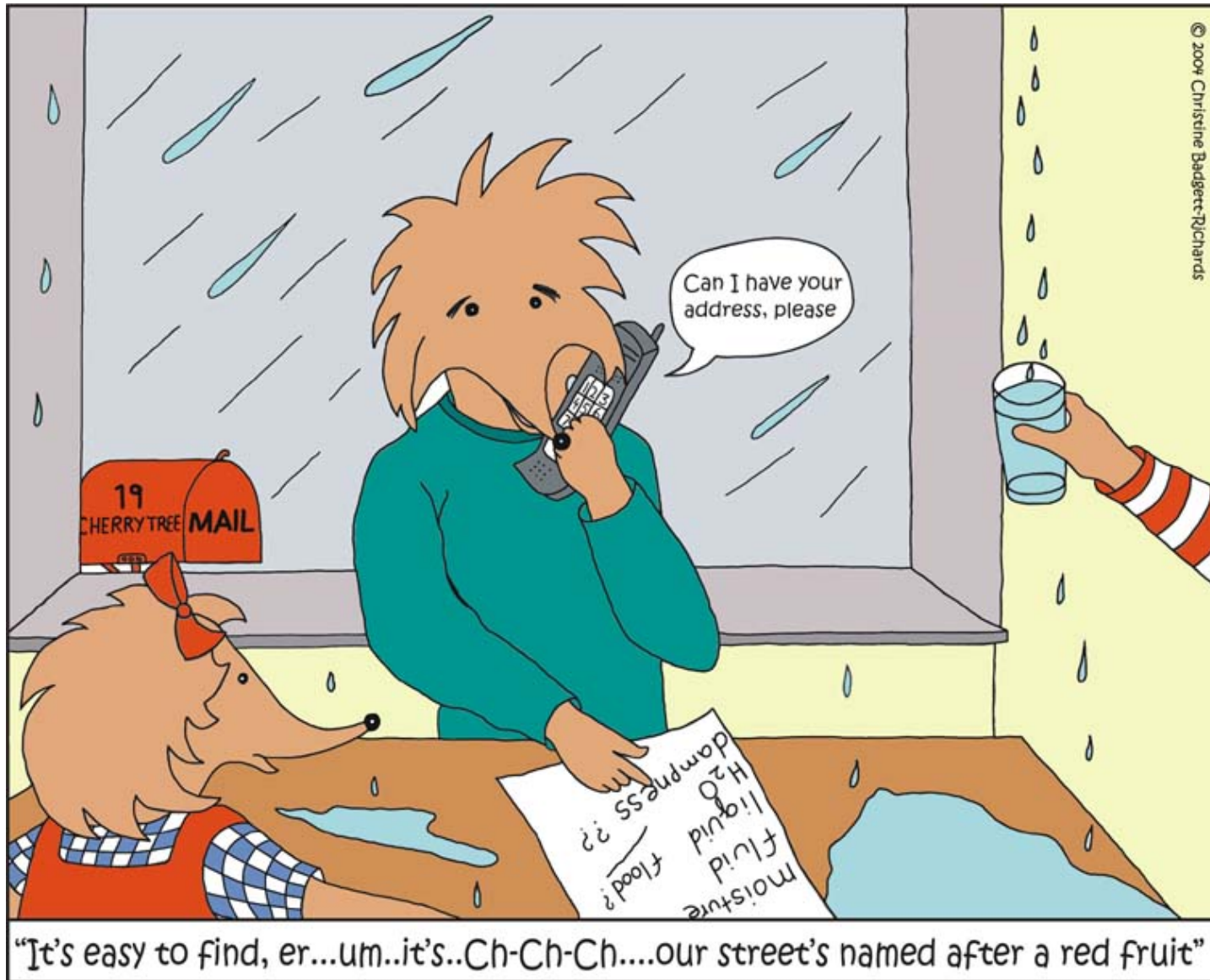
I couldn't say muffin, I couldn't say butter
If I ordered a burger, I'd stumble and stutter
So, instead of me saying the words that I should
I'd swop them for others, I hoped that I could



**But you can't always leave out the words that you dread
There are times when a certain thing has to be said
My sister's called Sarah, my best friend is Ben
They just wouldn't answer to Lucy and Len**



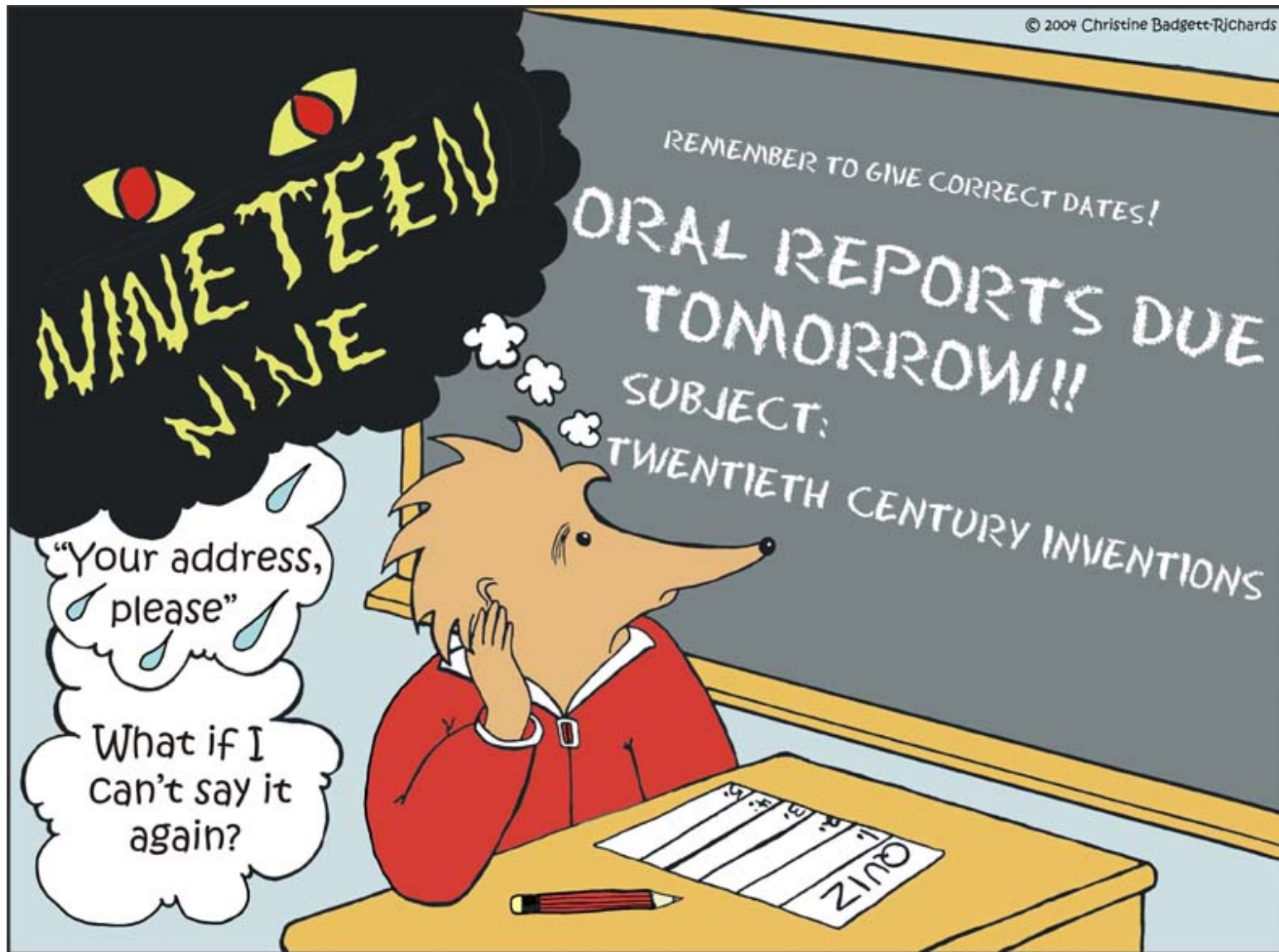
Whenever I spotted a difficult sound
I'd hastily juggle my sentence around
I spent so much energy word re-arranging
Whenever I spoke, I was chopping and changing



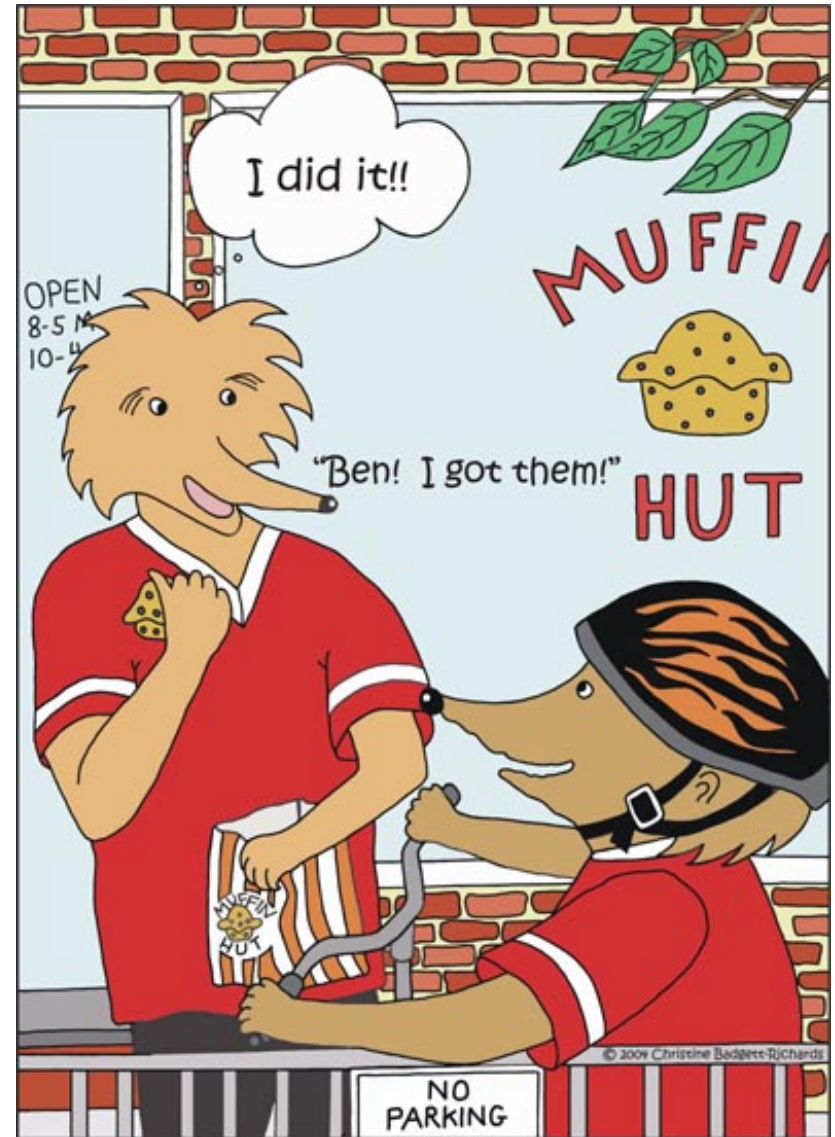
**My efforts to search for an easier word
Resulted in sentences, sometimes absurd
At times, my selections just didn't make sense
Which made me more anxious, frustrated and tense**



**Each time I avoided a troublesome sound
I felt rather guilty, and very soon found
That my fear of speaking increased even more
The number of 'problem words' started to soar**



**I quickly discovered that word substitution
Was simply avoidance, and not a solution
Although I was fluent, or so it appeared
The words I avoided became much more feared**



**One day, I decided, enough was enough
I made myself promise, (although it was tough)
To say what I wanted, whatever the letter
At times, I still struggled, but I felt so much better**



**Today, I will say any letter or sound
Confronting my fears is the best way – I've found.
Should I ever be tempted to waver sometime
I'll remember the message contained in this rhyme.**