

Bards in the Bog



Three ways to imitate a great spotted woodpecker

i.

Be a schoolboy from some fancy London prep:
bright red knickerbockers, chequered jacket,
but, keep your tie unloosed, your cap askew.
Now, overhang your ruler on the desk
and, when no-one is looking, make it TWANG.
Flounce off in a huff if you are challenged.

ii.

Be a bell boy running up the hotel stairs,
zoetroped between the balustrades.
When you reach your destination knock ten times.
Listen, with your head cocked, Knock again.

iii.

Rattle dice in a plastic cup.
Stay hidden.


Heather Reid

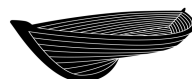
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