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# Laundry Room Jungle

Kylie Mills

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“Laundry Room Jungle” is a fun poem about the difficulties of doing laundry in a college dorm. At face value, it is a good laugh and an easy read. Looking deeper into the writing, readers will see themes of human nature and selfish individualism. I wanted this poem to represent what it feels like going to college as a freshman, surrounded by people who are already familiar with the campus and so engrossed in their day-to-day lives that they have no time to entertain newcomers.

There is something strange about the laundry room.  
Drying clothes vanish without a trace.  
Wash loads are prematurely ripped from their mother’s womb,  
leaving them heavy with no hope of getting dry.  
Washers overflow with abuse,  
spreading spiteful floods throughout the basement.

The laundry room twists and warps people,  
bringing out animalistic qualities they didn’t know they had.  
The moment they step into the room,  
they shift and morph into something . . . else.  
They prowl the laundry room,  
inspecting each machine and marking their next victim.  
They stake their claim without empathy for those around them.  
Territory is well guarded and cunningly bartered.  
There are no friends in the laundry room-  
only allies and enemies.

There is no one to help you,  
no guide to tell you what to do.  
You must quickly learn how to handle yourself,  
to read the environment and blend in.  
Standing out gets you hurt.  
Newcomers are nothing but fresh meat-  
so watch your back, or you will feel their teeth.

I see this happen far too many times.  
I want to help-  
I really do.  
But I hunch my back,  
Stake my claim,  
And guard my territory.  
Welcome to the laundry room jungle.

## About the Author



Kylie Mills is a first-year student at Montana State University, Bozeman. She is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Fish and Wildlife Ecology and Management with a minor in Geographic Information Sciences (G.I.S.). She is a presidential scholar in the Honors College at MSU, where she is developing her passion for writing poetry. In the future, she hopes to earn her master’s degree and work as a terrestrial biologist for the United States National Park Service. She is honored that you are reading her work and hopes you enjoy her writing.