Dear Mrs. Dingman,

Hanna and her little sister, Nadia have a story which is the reason for them not coming to school (I have no part in this). They say, "There was a huge Dr. Seuss-looking creature outside that was spurting fruit punch from its mouth all over the garden. It had ballet slippers and a pirate outfit on. We hid in the bushes, but it found us and swallowed us whole. Inside the Dr. Seuss creature there were thousands of bags of popcorn, but they were all filled with the tiniest pumpkins you could ever imagine! They were so tiny that they looked more like undersized orange cherries. Finally it got tired of torturing us and hurled us to the ground (literally hurled). We were drenched in fruit punch!"

This didn't make the tiniest bit of sense, but Nadia had a popcorn bag on her, "filled with the tiniest pumpkins you could ever imagine". They looked innocent until I saw the refrigerator... but they were still covered in fruit punch and smelled so horrible even the dog couldn't go near them. So of course if I had sent them to school someone would have called Social Service.