How to do the Laundry (for art teachers):

Begin by inspecting for stains. You remember last night’s salad, eaten in haste, and find that favorite shirt now specked with little dots of oily dressing.

Fish around in the hamper for that jumper you wore to school. It was the day you forgot to wear your apron. That jumper happened to be a favorite but now it has a big magenta spot thanks to a paint spill.

Like a cloud passing, your mind drifts to the color white. White is a color you never wear to the art room. Back to real time. Grab the liquid Dawn from under the sink. Remind yourself—we are doing the laundry. Let’s get it done.

Dawn is an art teacher’s savior. You squeeze a blob onto the magenta spot and the oil-stained shirt. Fill the sink with lukewarm water. Now immerse the garments—first the shirt, then the jumper. Rub the Dawn into the stains and let the shirt soak. Repeat with the jumper, watching while you rub the stain as the sink water turns a lovely shade of pink. You are a pro at this.

Most of your clothing had a life before it ever met you. You are thankful for second-hand clothes and Dawn. Now gently wring out the jumper and shirt, put them back in the basket. Head down to the basement.

The rest is simple. Load the machine, set the timed wash to Normal, warm/cool temperature, and push the big green Start button. We will get into drying and folding another time. Now put your feet up and relax.

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