



2009

Childhood

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Recommended Citation

Mable, Kourtney (2009) "Childhood," *Cedarville Review*: Vol. 12 , Article 4.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.cedarville.edu/cedarvillereview/vol12/iss1/4>

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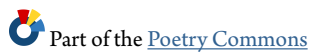
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Childhood

Don't mind the six-foot snow slide concussion,
the wasp-stung eyebrow,
the week-long pirate eye patch.
Have some hot orange, not chocolate;
lick watermelon lipstick,
learn macramé in Alexandria Bay,
fall asleep trundled under older sister.

Don't need a Skip-It, a Stretch Armstrong,
just smile at scotch-tape bandaids,
shopping bag kite,
shriveled brown seahorse on a sandy porch.
Lunch on plastic trays with pictures
of Dutch children and
a dip compartment,
butter bread with honey.
Hide inside the dead-branch pine,
dare you to shimmy up the wrist-thick limbs.
Plant the potato pieces,
one eye each,
heel-to-toe three times in the dirt row.