**My Mother Says I’m Sickening**

Jack Prelustsky

My mother says I’m sickening,

my mother says I’m crude,

she says this when she sees me

playing Ping-Pong with my food,

she doesn’t seem to like it

when I slurp my bowl of stew,

and now she’s got a list of things

she says I mustn’t do-

DO NOT CATAPULT THE CARROTS!

DO NOT JUGGLE GOBS OF FAT!

DO NOT DROP THE MASHED POTATOES

ON THE GERBIL OR THE CAT!

NEVER PUNCH THE PUMPKIN PUDDING!

NEVER TUNNEL THROUGH THE BREAD!

PUT NO PEAS INTO YOUR POCKET!

PLACE NO NOODLES ON YOUR HEAD!

DO NOT SQUEEZE THE STEAMED ZUCCHINI!

DO NOT MAKE THE MELON OOZE!

NEVER STUFF VANILLA YOGHURT

IN YOUR LITTLE SISTER’S SHOES!

DRAW NO FACES IN YOUR KETCHUP!

MAKE NO LITTLE GRAVY POOLS!

I wish my mother wouldn’t make

so many useless rules.