

Parents

A child's face is a drowned face:

Her parents stare down at her asleep

Estranged from her by a sea:

She is under the sea

And they are above the sea:

If she looked up she would see them

As if locked out of their own home,

Their mouths open,

Their foreheads furrowed –

Pursed-up orifices of fearful fish –

Their big ears are fins behind glass,

And in her sleep she is calling out to them

Father, Father

Mother, Mother

But they cannot hear her:

She is inside the sea

And they are outside the sea.

Through the night, stranded, they stare

At the drowned, drowned face of their child.

