

## **The Claw Machine**

bored with grown-up conversation  
waiting for food at Zorbaz  
and lacking money  
for the claw machine  
a nine-year-old explores

coins spotted through gaps  
in the deck timbers  
call for immediate extraction  
requiring a suitable stick  
grandpa is dispatched to find  
while mom rifles her purse  
for chewing gum  
to put on the end of it

cold pizza is beside the point later  
as cupped hands and a broad grin  
tell the real story  
and her luck holds  
when mom lets her spend it all  
in the claw machine