

# For Their Second Childhood

*David Wagoner*

There's hardly anybody  
left alive to remind them  
to stop that  
slouching to stand up  
straight to quit playing  
with their food to chew it  
certain numbers of times  
and swallow  
without gulping  
and to know when to go  
to the bathroom and where  
it is and what to wash  
and wipe and what to take off  
and put on to be afraid  
their faces will stay like that  
or how they ought to start  
thinking seriously  
of the future just in case  
they ever get there or what  
for a change to please  
remember for heaven's sake.