

## **To My Psychiatrist: Family Meeting**

Delegated to the couch  
we found in someone's trash  
I watch my stepfather reset his watch  
and stream excuses like a water fountain,  
I shrink into a pile of sweaters,  
out of the dryer for days.  
I cannot speak  
the intimidation is huge.  
At last,  
the torture is over.  
"Good job, everyone," my mother says.  
There is no reply.

Noah Mishkin  
Age 14/Grade 8  
Middle School Winner