

1991

Mother

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Mother

Dinner six
she says
chopping carrots
so fast
piling orange
eyes stare
at me
chop chop
you move
so fast.
They once
were chopped
in a red
lunchbox
under a napkin
with a
secret
message.
"turn in your
blue slip
good luck
on test
have a good
day
I miss you"
I don't
see why
you don't
I don't
write messages
anymore —
Stop
chopping so
fast please
I'm afraid
for you
to cut
yourself.

Anne Mulligan