

**Katherine Mansfield**

*Lonesome Child*

## A Little Boy's Dream

To and fro, to and fro  
In my little boat I go  
Sailing far across the sea  
All alone, just little me.  
And the sea is big and strong  
And the journey very long.  
To and fro, to and fro  
In my little boat I go.

Sea and sky, sea and sky,  
Quietly on the deck I lie,  
Having just a little rest.  
I have really done my best  
In an awful pirate fight,  
But we captured them all right.  
Sea and sky, sea and sky,  
Quietly on the deck I lie.

Far away, far away  
From my home and from my play,  
On a journey without end  
Only with the sea for friend  
And the fishes in the sea.  
But they swim away from me  
Far away, far away  
From my home and from my play.

## The Lonesome Child

The baby in the looking-glass  
Is smiling through at me;  
She has her teaspoon in her hand,  
Her feeder on for tea.

And if I look behind her I  
Can see the table spread;  
I wonder if she has to eat  
The nasty crusts of bread.

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Her doll, like mine, is sitting close  
Beside her special chair,  
She has a pussy on her lap;  
It must be my cup there.

Her picture-book is on the floor,  
The cover's just the same;  
And tidily upon the shelf  
I see my Ninepin game.

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O baby in the looking-glass,  
Come through and play with me,  
And if you will, I promise, dear  
To eat your crusts at tea.

## The Pillar Box

The pillar box is fat and red,  
The pillar box is high;  
It has the flattest sort of head  
And not a nose or eye,  
But just one open nigger mouth  
That grins when I go by.

The pillar box is very round  
But hungry all the day;  
Although it doesn't make a sound,  
Folks know it wants to say,  
"Give me some letter sandwiches  
To pass the time away."

"A postage stamp I like to eat  
Or gummy letterette."  
I see the people on the street,  
If it is fine or wet,  
Give something to the greedy thing;  
They never quite forget.

The pillar box is quite a friend;  
When Father goes away  
My Mother has such lots to send,  
Far letters every day,  
And so I drop them in its mouth  
When I go out to play.