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## For Not Playing Dead

Catherine Woodard

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## Woodard: For Not Playing Dead

For Not Playing Dead  
Catherine Woodard

With a blue book bag,  
Two fat pencils, and a rule  
Not to leave school

With my father in a car,  
I start first grade.  
Mother says we can die

If he's drinking.  
She says to scream,  
Kick if we must.