

# CutBank

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Volume 1  
Issue 1 *CutBank 1*

Article 10

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Spring 1973

## The Children

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### Recommended Citation

Swanger, David J. (1973) "The Children," *CutBank*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/cutbank/vol1/iss1/10>

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## THE CHILDREN

(Images of burst cushions by the road disguised as corpses—  
Dogs, cats, wild things inert but for tufts  
Of hair drifting in the backwash of traffic.)

From the sides of the ditch roots hang like arteries.  
A shovel blade bisects the kingdom of small animals.  
One explodes through the wall like a lost subway,  
Blinks amazed at the avalanche of sunlight,  
Runs blind through an unsought world.

The children know vaguely that murder is possible;  
Their edges grow hard and bright.  
I shout mortality at them  
But one, with a two-step jig of small shoes,  
Snuffs the flame.