To Bathe Father in the Kitchen

i

The kitchen is
the smallest space
in the flat
In the kitchen
the father fits a
stove for the mother
sink for the daughter
and fridge for two sons

ii

There is a round
breakfast table
in the centre
of the kitchen
The father
the mother
two sons and
the daughter
can fit if they
tuck in their stools
Elbows clack
against elbows
and fingers tangle
around ladles
but everyone
eats around the
kitchen table
for breakfast and
for dinner

iii

There is no space
on the kitchen

floor to lay
the father
The two sons remove
the breakfast table
from the kitchen
to make space for
the father's body

iv

v

Now they take breakfast
in different spaces

One son eats in his room
The other eats outside
The daughter eats in her room
and the mother doesn't eat.

*(*by *Nurulhuda Arslan,* 2014*)*