

## **Grown-Up Child**

I am a grown-up child now  
who sings eccentric lullabies,  
who uses codeine to kiss boo-boos goodbye,  
and who plays doctor for real.

I am a grown-up child now  
who can't pay bills with Monopoly money,  
who can be her own parent,  
and who likes to stay up way past her bedtime.

But I still don't take candy from strangers,  
and I still look both ways before crossing,  
and I still get excited for slumber parties and bubble baths.

I still think a pony would be a manageable pet,  
and I still think my crossed eyes might get stuck,  
and I still get crushes on boys who give me sticks of gum.

And often I can be found spinning 'round and 'round  
in my studio apartment  
with the furniture pushed to the edge  
and out of the way.

Because I still think it's a great way  
to spend a boring afternoon.

**Veronica Kott**