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## The Hungry Staircase

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# THE HUNGRY STAIRCASE

In our old house  
lived a circular staircase  
that unwound like black ribbon  
The rim of the hollow banister  
gaped open in a frozen yawn  
This is how I fed it lifesavers  
and listened as they slid  
so nicely down and down  
to land  
plunk in its empty stomach  
the banister's end  
At night the landing window  
held a little girl  
No matter how I begged  
she just copied everything I did  
and never stepped out from her glass  
I wonder if she was jealous  
that I was the one  
who fed the staircase

*Heather Renouf*