

The Importance of Ice Cream Lids

Over the back-seat
front-seat separation
a father hands his son
the lid of an ice-cream tub.

The boy, held back
by the black seatbelt, strains to claim
the lid from his dad's hands.

Finally, he nabs it
grasps the booty
before slowly licking
the circumference of the lid.

The circle of chocolate
diminishes in the face of
his concentrated ministrations.

Afterward, with a once-white T-shirt face
and fingers dirty brown
left with a half-moon of
melted chocolate ice-cream

He grins. His father
in front frowns, then laughs,
and laughs, and laughs.