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## My Brilliant Career

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**SUSAN AYRES**

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**My Brilliant Career**

“Parenting has been the central satisfaction in my life.”

—Elizabeth Bartholet,  
Harvard Law Professor

I thought about you today, Betsy,  
another harried morning  
as we struggled to serve breakfast, pack lunches,  
make beds, practice piano, brush teeth.  
This morning, Daniel had a nosebleed as we pulled  
up to school, and I tried not to be exasperated,  
saying to my eight-year-old,  
“Just blot your nose, don’t rub it!”  
“You want the blood to coagulate.”  
Knowing he didn’t understand “coagulate,”  
I tried to distract him with a big word.

Eight-thirty and I was already whipped.  
Still on my way to my brilliant career.