

David Winwood · *Netherlands*

UNFORGETTABLE SUMMERS

Caught!
But don't stretch your hand
too near to the pike's head
—they warned me as a child—
don't let your fingers mistakenly slip
towards the pike's mouth.

Warm!
But don't stretch your arm, lad
not with your skin, into the glare
—they warned me as a child—
don't bare your arms to the sun,
it'll hurt and peel off.

Nice!
But don't go too far into the waters.
Boy, they got many a better than you
—they warned me as a child—
don't trust the river's crystal smile
or the current will catch you.

Yes, so they warned me,
so they did,
when I was a child.

translated by the author