**How to Eat a Poem***by Eve Merriam*

Don't be polite.

Bite in.

Pick it up with your fingers and lick the juice that

may run down your chin.

It is ready and ripe now, whenever you are.

You do not need a knife or fork or spoon  
or plate or napkin or tablecloth.

For there is no core  
or stem  
or rind  
or pit  
or seed  
or skin  
to throw away.