

# Aboard the Victoria Clipper

1.

Aboard the Clipper  
heading north  
Zeppelin passing  
three pink paper peace doves  
on the window sill

2.

Skyline across the water  
low island hills front mountains  
the sun's glare on the water  
a crystalline blur

3.

The city behind fades  
from view disappears  
in a blue bank of distance  
until even distance disappears

4.

Rumble of motors  
smooth crossing  
city to city  
country to country  
sound without opinion

5.

Woman in wheelchair  
rolls around the table  
drapes a scarf  
around her father's neck  
jockeys back to her own side

6.

Steward behind the counter  
wants to spike  
another worker's drink  
sabotage I say  
something safe she replies

7.

A small boy runs the aisle  
barefoot in pajamas  
his mother walks quickly  
solemnly behind  
her arms crossed  
at the waist

8.

EXIT the small sign barely  
bigger than its letters  
above the round window  
on the back deck's door  
shut and locked  
during the crossing

9.

On the crowded table  
an open deck of cards  
a complicated novel  
a book of drawing paper  
a swift game of solitaire

10.

Two women  
lying prone  
spy each other  
under the table  
passing notes  
with their eyes

11.

Sunglasses lie  
on the table top  
shading a napkin  
from the bright  
sun's light

12.

Man reading newspaper  
squints with his glasses  
on top his head  
his bristly soul patch  
points at the headlines

13.

Empty plastic cup  
a cone of translucent lines  
dividing outside from in  
inside from out  
preferring neither

14.

Approaching port  
last chance for duty-free  
purchases folding umbrellas  
long sleeve t-shirts otters  
and whales

15.

Red alarm bell on the wall  
worker collecting trash  
epaulets on a white  
shirt's shoulder  
indicate authority

16.

The crowded line snakes  
into the baggage area  
noises on the other side  
of the wall conjure images  
of Buchenwald become  
nothing but hellos and  
welcome to Canada