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## Doing Dishes

Richard Zabransky  
*College of DuPage*

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## DOING DISHES

*Richard Zabransky*

It is a bad  
habit, liking washing  
your hands too much,  
like flushing

the toilet  
when you don't  
have to. I go out  
after supper, to knock

on people's doors, to ask  
them if they need  
their dishes done. I jog  
into their kitchens, roll

up my sleeves, swig down  
half a Coke somebody  
didn't finish, get the water  
good and hot, and start

to work. I walk into their  
living rooms, the hair  
on my arms plastered  
to the skin

like baby's scalp.  
"Look," I say, "every  
plate, cup, glass —  
like never been used."

Their favorite television  
commercial begins;  
they sing the jingle  
They long to buy.