

*식구

Only in certain contexts is it okay to bring up the animals:

so many saids are unthinged when you grow up

anti-conversation and pro-elephants in the room

식구: those with whom you eat sit at the dinner table

식구: the dinner table

is for the dust mites to gnaw at while the elephants sit

like moles that pretty the face, mark the body knowable

A four roomed house is small when its tenants float past

one another, shoo shoo-ing questions that bubble up like

What do you think, 식구? Is water wet?

Would you wear the ocean if you could? Drenched corpses and all?

On days when the hue of a screen is colder than usual

and the floor begins to turn to water beneath the feet

you think of your family home in Meadowlands;

want to do as you never dared to when you were a child:

lie belly up against the harsh red stoep

even as it stains clothing

press down against its hard surface

knowing it will refuse to let up

*식구 pronounced shick-gu means family member. It can also mean dinner table, a shortened form of '식사용 기구' or 'furniture used for eating meals'. Source: Naver dictionary, Korean.