

NOTABLE BY NONO
-- 101 BUBBLING QUOTES FROM A BABBLING TODD

SPOKEN BY NOVIA CHIANG (NONO), WHEN SHE WAS 2-5 YEARS OLD
EDITED BY MUNG CHIANG (DADDY)

Clouds (2011)

Some look like alligators
Some look like fish
Some look like a marshmallow
When it is squished

More Clouds (2011)

One looks like a pet,
One looks like a bat.
One looks like everything,
But everything is nothing.

Ancient Roman Ruins (2011)

Many years ago, people lived behind these walls
In the halls
Many years later, their halls
Are covered in grass

This used to be their playroom
With so many toys
Now all the paintings in the room
Have faded away

Take Off My Shoes (2011)

The shoes are jails!
My feet are the prisoners.
Just open the gate
And let everybody out

I am free!
I am free because
I am me.

Memory (2011)

I remember the time
When I was all alone.
That's the time I like
'cause I was on my own.

Lubbaby Not (2012)

The fish swim in deep blue sea,
Good night to everyone but me.
I do not feel sleepy, not at all,
For I'm nocturnal – I'm an owl!

Dreams (2012)

When I open my eyes,
the dreams just melt away.

When I close my eyes,
the dreams they come back.

Some dreams don't listen to me,
and bad dreams come alive.

I just open and close my eyes,
and the bad dreams melt away.

Rainbow (2012)

I spy a rainbow in the sky
I spy a rainbow passing by
I once saw it there there there
Where is it now, where where where?

2-Year Old (2009-2010)

The Reality

Daddy: Look! There're two NoNos. Is that one (point to the mirror) real?

NoNo: No, it's just a reflection.

Daddy: How do you know it's not real?

NoNo: How do you know this (pointing to herself) IS real?

The Abstract Artist

Grandpa: What're you painting here?

NoNo: I'm painting you, and PaPa, and Mommy.

Grandpa: But they don't look like me, PaPa, or Mommy.

NoNo: (Pause) It's Halloween!

The Bad Girl

Daddy: Please eat the vege(tables). Be a good girl.

NoNo: I don't WANT to be a good girl!

NoNo: I want to be a BAD girl!
Daddy: Why? Why do you want to be a bad girl?
NoNo: Coz I want to be a HAPPY people.

The Fair Lover

Daddy: NoNo, I love you forever. Do you love me?
NoNo: Yep.
Daddy: Forever?
NoNo: Forever.
Daddy: I love you most. Who do you love most?
NoNo: I love EVERYONE most.

The Driving Instruction

NoNo: (before stepping into a taxi in Paris): I don't want any tunnel.
Daddy (to the taxi driver): Notre Dame, please.
Taxi driver: (nods).
NoNo (leaning towards the driver): No Tunnel, please.

The Gift Shopper

Daddy: See, NoNo, I bought you a new barrel of beads.
NoNo: Wow, these are BEAUTIFUL! I LOVE beads. Thank you!
NoNo: You're better at buying gifts than Santa Clause.

The Couple

Dad: NoNo, if you're a good girl, Santa Clause will give you some gifts.
NoNo: But I want Janice (the nanny) to be Santa Clause.
Dad: Er... Santa Clause, I think, is a boy.
NoNo: (Pause.) But Santa Clause has a wife! Mrs. Santa Clause.

The Coke

Mommy: Here's your Coke and here's mine. But you know Coke is not healthy.
NoNo: Mommy, don't drink your Coke. Coke is not healthy for you.
Mommy: What about your Coke?
NoNo: A LITTLE bit unhealthy. My Coke is a little unhealthy for me, because I'm little.

The Reply to Elvis

Dad: (Singing in baritone): "Are you lonesome tonight? Do you miss me tonight? Are you sorry we drifted apart?"
NoNo: And the girl says "Yes".
NoNo: But the boy says "No, I'm not".

The Boyfriends

Daddy: NoNo, you did a beautiful drawing today. Will you share it with your classmates?
NoNo: Yeah, I will.
Daddy: Really?
NoNo: I'll share with my OTHER boyfriend.

Daddy: !? (What? How many does she have?...)

The Secret of Age

Daddy: Even when you're 10 years old, in PaPa's heart, you're still a 1 year old baby.

NoNo: (Nods)

Daddy: Even when you're 20 years old, in PaPa's heart, you're still a 1 year old baby.

NoNo: (Nods)

Daddy: Even when you're...

NoNo: STOP! I don't want to grow TOO old.

The Secret of Age II

Nanny: Did you see the baby girl last weekend?

NoNo: Yeah, I played with her.

Nanny: What's her name?

NoNo: Alicia.

Nanny: How old is she?

NoNo: I didn't ask. It's none of my business.

The Christmas Gift

Daddy: NoNo, be a good girl and Santa Clause will give you a gift, right down there from the chimney.

(After Christmas Eve dinner)

NoNo: I want to poop poop.

Daddy: Sure. Let's go to the potty.

NoNo: I want to poop poop on top of the roof.

Daddy: Why? It's cold up there.

NoNo: I want to poop poop on roof right above the chimney.

The Drinker

Daddy: NoNo, you need to drink more water.

NoNo: But I don't want to drink water.

Daddy: You HAVE to drink water.

NoNo: But I'm just a BABY.

Daddy: Babies need to drink water too.

NoNo: (Pause). But I don't have teeth!

The Daughter's Love

Daddy: NoNo, do you have big eyes or small eyes?

NoNo: Big eyes.

Daddy: What about PaPa?

NoNo: (Pause, then in a low voice) Small eyes.

Daddy: (Laugh)

NoNo: But I'll still love you.

The Spirit of Freedom

Daddy: NoNo, it's time for you to come back into the house.

NoNo: But I want to stay outside with Janice and play with the snow!
Daddy: I'm waiting for you at the door!
NoNo: Then close the door, and let us BE!

The (New) "Ode to the West Wind"

Daddy: NoNo, what're the four seasons of a year?
NoNo: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter.
Daddy: Good job. Now, "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"
NoNo: Yes, it can! Spring is behind winter.

The Beauty Contest

NoNo: Your wife is beautiful.
Daddy: That's right. Now, who's more beautiful, you or your Mommy?
NoNo: I am.
NoNo: (Seeing Mommy coming into the room) We BOTH are more beautiful.

The Aging Girl

Daddy: You remember "Goodnight Moon" (famous bedtime story book)?
NoNo: I can't see the tiny mice there. I must be growing OLD.

The Role Reversal

Mommy: NoNo, you're getting sick.
NoNo: I'm getting sick. Papa, you have to be a good boy now.
NoNo: Coz I'm getting sick.

The Favorite Sport

MyGym (a gym for kids) Teacher: What's your favorite sport?
Some kid: Swimming.
Some other kid: Basketball.
MyGym Teacher: What's your favorite sport, Novia?
NoNo: My favorite sport is to BE LAZY.

The Family

Daddy: Look, Novia, who's that (point to a collage of photos)?
NoNo: That's Grandpa.
Daddy: And who's that?
NoNo: That's Great-grandpa.
NoNo: I'm lucky. I have TWO grandpas.

The Food

Daddy: You've been eating too many pieces of duck tonight! Stop eating duck.
NoNo: But I want to eat more duck.
Daddy: If you eat more duck, you'll become a duck. Quack Quack.
NoNo: (Showing fear) What can I eat then?
Daddy: Try the noodle on your plate.
NoNo: But I can't eat noodle. If I eat noodle, I'll become noodle.

The Sharing

Daddy: What did you have for lunch today?

NoNo: Ribs. I like ribs. Yummy.

Daddy: I like ribs too. Did you save some for me?

NoNo: Yes, I did.

Daddy: Really?

NoNo: Yes, in the bowl. I saved the bones for you.

The Calendar

NoNo: Can I go swim today?

Daddy: It's for tomorrow.

NoNo: WHEN is tomorrow?

Daddy: After you sleep and wake up, it'll be tomorrow.

(Next morning)

NoNo: I'm up. Can I swim now? Is it tomorrow?

Daddy: You can swim today.

NoNo: Yeah! NOW is tomorrow!

3-Year Old (2010-2011)

The Antonyms

Daddy: What's the opposite of "Big"?

NoNo: "Small".

Daddy: What's the opposite of "Long"?

NoNo: "Short".

Daddy: What's the opposite of "Complicated"?

NoNo: "Not-complicated".

The Modern Art

Daddy: What's that? What're you drawing, NoNo?

NoNo: I'm drawing something you can't understand.

Daddy: OK. (Scratching head). Do YOU understand what you're drawing?

NoNo: UmUm.

The Repetition

Mommy: Novia, you must brush your teeth.

NoNo: (Reluctantly brushing teeth)

Mommy: How many times have I told you, that you must brush your teeth?

NoNo: TOO many times.

The Career Aspiration

Mommy: What job do you want to have in the future?

NoNo: Princess.

Mommy: That's not a job.

NoNo: Then I want to be a patient.

The Paradox Resolved

Daddy: Pretend you're a barber. And you only cut someone's hair if she doesn't cut her own hair.

NoNo: Alright.

Daddy: Now, should you cut your own hair? If you do, you cannot. But if you don't...

NoNo: It's alright. Mommy cuts my hair.

The Angel

Daddy: What do you like most? Including people and food and drink and toy, anything.

NoNo: I like Daddy most.

Daddy: (smiling) What do you like next? Ice cream?

NoNo: I like flowers next.

Daddy: Why flowers?

NoNo: Because I want to pick some flowers for you.

The Sweetheart

NoNo: I have a heartache.

Daddy: What? Where?

NoNo: I have a heartache because I love you too much.

The Honey

NoNo (talking loud).

Daddy: NoNo, your saliva flies across the room to my arm. Don't do that to anyone else.

NoNo: That's because I only love you.

The Moral of the Story

Daddy: What does this story tell us? Never tell lies to Mommy.

NoNo: That's right. Only tell lies to Daddy.

The Archeologist

Daddy: There's no more dinosaur now. They all died a long time ago.

NoNo: That's right. Dinosaurs all died at the museum.

The Career Choice

NoNo: I want to grow up and become a professor like you.

Daddy: That's great.

NoNo: But I can't. I need to be a FULL-TIME princess in a castle.

The Manners

Daddy: NoNo, please don't speak so loud. We're in a public place with many people.

NoNo: That's right. I can only shout when I'm at home, where everybody is nobody.

The Assessment

Daddy puts the shoes on the wrong feet for NoNo.

NoNo: That's the wrong foot!

Daddy: Oh, Daddy's stupid.
NoNo: Daddy's stupid and handsome.

The Dream

Daddy (after Novia's nap): What did you dream about?
NoNo: You.
Daddy: I dream about you too, the most beautiful girl, and a smart girl, and a good girl...
NoNo: But that's just a dream!

The Swimmer

Grandpa: Why don't you like swimming anymore?
NoNo: I like swimming, I just don't like water.

The Zen Aphorism

NoNo: Daddy, what is "wisdom"?
Daddy: That's a deep question. It's.. Ur... Um... It's a... What do YOU think it is?
NoNo: It's just a JOKE.

The Deconstruction

Daddy: What's a "honeymoon"?
NoNo: It's a place called moon that the bears go after getting married.
NoNo: We human beings don't like honey, so we just go to the moon after getting married, not honeymoon.

The Vote of Confidence

Mommy: NoNo, we just had an earthquake!
NoNo: It's OK. Daddy will take care of it.

The Four-Letter Word

NoNo: (screaming)
Daddy: NoNo, stop screaming, and be polite.
NoNo: It's not about POLITE, it's about LOVE!

The New Spelling

NoNo: (after power outage) Do we have "tricity" now?
Grandpa: What's "tricity"? You mean "e-lec-tricity"
NoNo: Yeah, right, I mean "I-like-tricity"

The Non-Euclidean Geometry

Daddy: Here's a chopstick on the table. Here's a meatball. How many chopsticks can you get to stick through the meatball and be parallel to this chopstick? Parallel means the two never touches even if they're very long chopsticks.
NoNo: Here's one.
Daddy: OK, can you add another parallel chopstick?
NoNo: Yes, I can.
Daddy: WHAT? How can you do that? Show me.

NoNo: You just put another chopstick through the meatball in the same way.

The Corinthian

Daddy: Love is patient... What is "love"?

NoNo: "Love" is I love you.

Daddy: What is "patient"?

NoNo: "Patient" is wait for your turn in the line.

Daddy: Love is kind... What is "kind"?

NoNo: "Kind" is share your chocolate with others.

Daddy: Love never fails. What is "never fails"?

NoNo: Ur... That's Spanish.

The Tongue-Twister

NoNo: I'm so small. I'm nobody.

Daddy: No, everybody is somebody.

NoNo: That's right, everybody is somebody, and nobody is nobody.

The Gettysburg Address

Daddy: "Four score and seven years ago, ... and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." What does "all men are created equal" mean?

NoNo: That means "if a kid doesn't listen to the adults, the adults won't listen to the kid either".

The Fall

Daddy: "Look, this tree's leaves have all fallen off."

NoNo: "Oh, no, this tree is naked." (covering her eyes).

The Love

NoNo: I want Grandpa to stay with me forever, and never go to sleep.

Daddy: But Grandpa is very sleepy now. You know what is "love"? To love someone is to put that person's happiness above your own. Like if a bunny loves a snail, he puts the snail's happiness first.

NoNo: (thinking for a while, then frowning) I don't like this "love" thing.

The Linguist

Daddy: What's "gentleman"?

NoNo: Gentleman is a boy.

Daddy: What do you call a girl then?

NoNo: "Gentlegirl".

The Mathematician

Daddy: NoNo, what is 1 plus 9?

NoNo: 10.

Daddy: Good. What is 11 plus 9?

NoNo: (thinking) Now it's your turn to guess.

The Longest Dream

Daddy: Good morning NoNo.

NoNo: I have to wake up from a long dream. That's why it took me so long.

Daddy: What is the longest dream that you don't want to wake up from?

NoNo: You.

The Beloved

Daddy: I love you NoNo.

NoNo: Stop gossiping about me.

The Evader

Mommy: You and Daddy are eating too much junk food. You guys should eat healthy.

Daddy: NoNo, what do you think about what Mommy just said?

NoNo: "Guys"? I'm not a guy. Daddy is a guy. I'm a girl. Can't Mommy tell the difference between a boy and girl?...

Daddy: Not about that. About eating healthy. Any reasons why we can eat junk food?

NoNo: Yes. There is a reason.

Daddy: Great, what is it?

NoNo: It's a secret.

The Washington Story

Daddy: ... (George Washington's don't lie about cutting cherry tree story) What does this story tell us?

NoNo: The lesson of the story is that you should first make sure which tree you are cutting before you cut it.

The Aging Pain

Mommy: Novia, you need to follow the rules...

NoNo: Please, I'm taking a rest. Let me take a rest. NoNo is getting older and older now.

4-Year Old (2011-2012)

The Chess Player

... (after learning how to play chess with Daddy)

Daddy: Here's how you castle. See, now the King is protected.

NoNo: But the King needs to breath fresh air! Let him out!

...

Daddy: Hey, hey, pay attention please. I'm about to eat your pawn here.

NoNo: Oh, I don't care. Just eat my pawn.

...

Daddy: I think you're going to win. You got an upper hand now.

NoNo: Don't worry. I'll let YOU win.

The Homophone confusion

Daddy: You know why you look like Daddy and think like Daddy? 'Cause daughters carry on Daddy's genes.

NoNo: That's right. You remember? You had a pair of jeans, blue jeans, and I couldn't wear them because I was too little?

The Reasons

Mommy: I have to take away your iPad.

NoNo: But I still want to watch the videos.

Mommy: Give me five reasons why I should allow you watch more.

NoNo: One, because I like to watch it. Two, because I promise I will go back after watching it. Three, because I really like to watch it. Four. Five, because I like to watch it. Six...

The Best Excuse

Daddy: Is this the right thing to do with your friends?

NoNo: No.

Daddy: What do you think you should do in the future?

NoNo: I can't think about that. My brain is too small.

The Painter

Grandpa: Let me teach you how to draw turtles. Here's an oval, here's the head, the legs, the tail... Now you draw it.

NoNo: (draw an oval). Here it is.

Grandpa: But that's just an oval. Where's the turtle?

NoNo: It's a sleeping turtle in his shell.

The Capitalization

Nanny: This is not 3. Actually 3 should open to the left, not to the right. This is more like an E.

NoNo: This is the capital letter of 3.

The Positive Thinker

Daddy: (strolling along grocery store with NoNo): See, when Daddy was a kid, Daddy wanted these snacks but didn't have money to buy them, so I had to save for a long time before I can afford to buy this...

NoNo: You must be very slim then!

The Dictionary

Daddy: what is 'cute' anyway?

NoNo: "Cute" means "adorable".

Daddy: OK, that's good.

NoNo: And what is "adorable"? "Adorable" means "cute".

The Weather Forecast

Daddy: Look, the weather forecast says that the next week will all be rainy.

NoNo: Oh no. That's not good.

NoNo: I don't even like weather forecast now. I will get rid of weather forecast.

The Seismic Force

Daddy: (looking at a globe that NoNo placed the sphere upside down) Why is New Zealand up here instead of down there now?

NoNo: Er... That's because New Zealand had too many earthquakes. The earthquakes moved it up there.

The Poet

Daddy: (turning on the light in the playroom)

NoNo: When you turn on the light, the room is lit up. When you open the curtain, the house is lit up...

Daddy: That's good! Let's write a poem out of this. Maybe we can add "When you say I love you, my heart is lit up."

NoNo: Noop, "When you eat the Sun, your mouth is lit up."

The Carribean Connection

Daddy: Tomorrow will be a big day at your school. Last day of the semester. Many parents will come...

NoNo: Oh, no, we got to run and hide!

Daddy: Why? We don't need to do that.

NoNo: But you just said a lot of PIRATES will come!

The Pizza Eater

Nanny: OK, you can have one piece of my pizza.

NoNo: Yummy... But, why do you have TWO pieces?

Nanny: Well, because I'm BIGGER.

NoNo: Yes, but I'm HUNGRIER.

The Criticism

Daddy: This music is by Mozart. He's a genius. Just like Einstein. Extremely talented people. But I heard Einstein wasn't particularly nice to his family. Most geniuses aren't very nice people. Kind of crazy or cold.

NoNo: Daddy, you must be a genius.

The Good Students

NoNo: (during summer break) I miss school, I like school so much...

Daddy: (very happy) Which part of school do you miss? Play time, story time, music time ...

NoNo: I miss the nap time.

The One-Term President

NoNo: I don't want to be the President of United States...

Daddy: Why?

NoNo: Because I'll get voted out.

The Snow White Brainwash

Daddy: (London Olympics Opening on TV.) Look, that's the Queen.

NoNo: Oh, she doesn't look that evil.

The Sentimentalist

NoNo: This is a cold, fragile world. Breakable just like glass.

The Psychiatrist

Daddy: How was your sleep last night?

NoNo: It was great.

Daddy: Had a good dream?

NoNo: My dream was so good that I can't even remember it.

The Mathematician II

Daddy: What is 6 plus 8?

NoNo: I hate math. As much as I hate tomato.

The Linguist II

NoNo: Can I have ice cream tonight?

Daddy: Well, maybe.

NoNo: That's not fair.

Daddy: I said "maybe."

NoNo: "Maybe" means "No."

The Divine Intervention

NoNo: I don't like vegetables.

Daddy: But it's good for everyone.

NoNo: Not for me. That's the way God made me.

The Wireless Network

NoNo: My iPad has a temper! Sometimes the pictures don't show up!

Daddy: That's not a temper. That's the Internet connection being too slow outside.

NoNo: Oh. The Internet connection is sleepy.

The Skepticism

NoNo: Why do I need to learn all this math and words?

Daddy: Because knowledge is power.

NoNo: No, there's nothing like that. Knowledge does not exist.

Daddy: What?

NoNo: Knowledge simply does not exist. (Pointing to a door) This door does not really exist either.

The Polite Girl

Daddy: (saying something that Novia doesn't like hearing)

NoNo: Dad, SHUT UP!

Daddy: You need to be polite.

NoNo: Dad, SHUT UP PLEASE!

The Insurance

Daddy: Do you know what's an insurance? It's like you pay them one dollar, I pay them one dollar, and if one of us gets into a bad event, they will pay us...

NoNo: Stop it...

Daddy: Why?

NoNo: Because it's sad... and boring.

The Feeling

Daddy: Stop playing with the scooter! Or I'll donate it to someone else!

NoNo: Don't say that! It hurts the scooter's feeling. What would you feel if you were that scooter?

The Linguist III

Daddy: See, getting four shots of immunization wasn't that bad, right?

NoNo: No, it's worse than not bad!

The Right Target

Daddy: Hey, stop hitting my head!

NoNo: But I like it...

NoNo: OK, I'll stop hitting you and do it to my husband.

The Driving Age

Grandpa: I need to drive Grandma to clinic.

NoNo: But I don't want you to leave. Grandma can drive to clinic herself.

Grandma: But I don't know how to drive.

NoNo: Grandma... you're now old enough to learn driving.

The School Lover

Daddy: Which part of school do you like most?

NoNo: Er... The poopy stool.

The Marriage

Mommy: Thomas Edison is such a smart guy. And he works so hard. He invented so many things...

NoNo: I want to get married to Edison.

Mommy: Er... he is dead already.

NoNo: I don't care.

The Magician

Daddy: Why did you eat my pie?

NoNo: I didn't eat it. I just made it smaller.

The Geo-physicist

Daddy: You know, water actually comes in three states. What're these three states?

NoNo: New Jersey, New York...

The Raindrops

Daddy: I love this bedtime chat together so much.

NoNo: Me too.

Daddy: But one day you'll be very busy. You'll be so busy that you don't have time for Daddy. I'll have to make appointment through your secretaries just to see you. You'll have no time but just a call at Christmas...

NoNo: (softly sobbing)

Daddy: Are you crying, my sweat heart? It's alright... we'll never part...

NoNo: It's not crying. It's just raindrops coming out of my eyes.