

# Twink

*John Pierce*

I credit bullies this:  
they have a way with fists  
and metaphors.

So that when fifth-grade you,  
huddled in your lunchroom corner,  
pulled from your bag  
the flat-as-a-bookmark cake,  
they recognized in the image  
resonance that a poet  
would have missed.

And smeared on you  
their misshapen blessings:  
a new name  
a new life.

John Pierce is a high school teacher living in the Texas Hill Country. Some of his recent work has appeared in *Religion and the Arts*, *Valley Voices*, *Time of Singing*, and *Right Hand Pointing*.