

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*.