

6th Period

By Vincent Toro

A jackhammer rattles in the courtyard outside,
While a jawbreaker is thrown across the room.
The teacher slams a window shut and waits
For a volunteer to solve the problem on the board.

Two boys slouching in the corner pass
A comic book underneath their desks.
They giggle mischievously while carving
Logos of rock bands into the back of a chair.

Four girls raise their hands invisibly,
As a map of the United States masks
Their need for approval beneath the blue and black
State lines cutting across paper geography.

A curly haired boy is summoned to the front of class.
He writes a number on the board with yellow chalk.
The teacher wags her index finger at him,
Directs the class to mock the crooked 5 he left behind.

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