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Canicas

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CANICAS

by José Angel Araguz

Asked the word
in English, I spoke,
and the other boys
didn't like the sound
of *marbles*,

and I agreed,
not knowing why,
and see now
this other word
had more in it

of the glass clack
and clatter of
those afternoons
where questions
and laughter rose

from the dirt
we kneeled on
into the sky
where any bird
might have

looked down
mid-flight and seen
a formation of boys
shoot beads of light
between them.