

Beside the Swing Set

by Mark Waldrop

Julie had a thousand freckles the
color of mud.
Instead of smiling she would
crinkle her nose
and bunch them
all up in the top half
of her face.

She and I traced shapes in the sand.
Puckered tight lips and kissed.
until Mrs. Baker
found us.

I had drawn a cow and
some grass in the sand
and Mrs. Baker
said we needed to behave
like good Christians.

She said to go on and play with the others.
Some kids were planning a rock fight
And we thought that would be fun.

