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## The Gamble and Jump Rope

Halie Brown

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# The Gamble

Halie Brown

And on the 8th day,  
God said:  
    “Let everything be lost,”  
And with a shake of a hand  
And the crackle of die  
It was

# Jump Rope

Halie Brown

A mouth full of cotton.  
Venom-soaked fiber.  
    He slipped through the grass, the rocks and plastic.  
    Curling and winding over the wheels of a turned-over trike,  
    Into honey-glazed hands. Sugar broke off across his scales,  
    As he stared into a starburst of a smile.  
The cry of a siren.