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beignets

Elizabeth Arterberry
Denison University

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beignets

Elizabeth Arterberry

the soft sweet scent of powdered sugar
and the habitual hiss of hot frying oil
are all i am aware of as, almost sleep-walking,
i descend the stairs into the kitchen
to greet my enthusiastic father
stationed at the stove, shadowed by
a fluffy, four-footed phantom
lingering at his heels, longing for a taste

i stand beside him and fidget
with typical twelve-year-old impatience
watching the bubbles pop and sizzle
dough swelling like deformed balloons
he shoos me away when i get too close
to the flame for his liking, and i retreat reluctantly,
gaze lingering on those golden globs slowly rising.