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News Story

Michael Webster
Grand Valley State University

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News Story

MICHAEL WEBSTER

The boy broke into his old school,
smashing the glass by the fire escape

and walking down the dark corridors
to the place where they keep the words.

Like a cat marking territory,
he sprayed "Hate or be Hated"

before sweeping books off the shelves
and kicking them together on the floor.

He struck out by proxy
like those who stick pins in a fetish;

he soaked the books in gasoline
and lit his match.

As he ran, his thought maybe smiled
at his raid on pulp and paper,

symbols and hieroglyph
of a principal he loathed,

of a labyrinth he could not hope to enter.