

# Forces

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## Marbles of the Mind

Beth Ayers

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## Marbles of the Mind

Beth Ayers

A lovely opaque marble  
slipped through a frayed opening,  
clinked on the hard wood floor  
before I scooped it up,  
placed it back where it belongs.  
I try to prevent the unraveling  
that allows leaks to form.  
Hours are spent exercising,  
trying to beat my highest score  
at this word game and that.  
Brain games.

Challenges that result in a  
mind capable of great thought and  
supposition, so I now suppose that  
my hourly attention to brain waves  
has distracted me from other exertion,  
the kind that strengthens the body,  
and I wonder what will become of me  
when I can no longer bend  
to retrieve my lost marbles.

**See Vo Blow Troubles Away** Gilbert Hu

