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Pickaninny Pronouns.

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**PICKANINNY
PRONOUNS.**

Marcus Wicker

we are the sons, daughters of generations
characterized by silence and speech
impediments, because history shows that nations unified
in exhalation talk

too little. i-i think that voices live
forever and bouquets
of thoughts don't wither but patriotism has
a short shelf-life

like egg-whites and skim milk. They forget
the men who have fought for everything
and bled for nothing, then
make mockeries of martyrdom

with "i Have a Dream" essay contests
for Cracker Jack prizes. Bullshit. This is
just Their way
of pacifying pilgrims who have grown

unaccustomed to the occupation of foreign breath.

For sonia sanchez