

The Dictionary

ACE BOGGESS

I keep a dictionary by my bed
in case a word is spoken when I dream

the language of sleep plays three-card Monte
with what I knew & what I have forgotten

a juggler with a dog's nose
mutters something I can't understand

an assassin demands my password &
it's there unvoiced by my second tongue

I would sacrifice speech in the hours of rest
all I want is to dance & play a green harmonica

but the notes too are little words
that need their definitions when I wake

young words played by a verbose instrument
that speaks from somewhere other than the throat