

Words are Birds

By Francisco X. Alarcon

5 words
are birds
that arrive
with books
and spring

10 they
love
clouds
the wind
and trees

15 some words
are messengers
that come
from far away
from distant lands

20 for them
there are
no borders
only stars

25 moon and sun

30 some words
are familiar
like canaries
others are exotic
like the quetzal bird

some can stand
the cold

others migrate
with the sun
to the south

5 some words
 die
 caged—
 they're difficult
 to translate

10 and others
 build nests
 have chicks
 warm them
15 feed them

 teach them
 how to fly
 and one day
20 they go away
 in flocks

 the letters
 on this page
25 are the prints
 they leave
 by the sea