

my elementary teacher pointed directly at me  
in front of the rest of the class  
and said pay attention.

within five minutes  
she followed it up telling me not to stare.

without many other options  
i thought i had the  
perfect response and began to roll my eyes slowly  
around and around.

within sixty four minutes  
i had to listen while  
the school counselor explained  
to my stiffly seated silently humiliated parents  
what issues with authority meant  
for now and in the future.

within thirty seven minutes  
we were back in our formal living room  
where my parents explained what humiliation meant.

there are those times when  
things seem to go downhill on their own  
picking up speed  
once they start rolling.

the perfect response.  
wf.h.  
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