

*Sarah Mook Poetry Contest, 2018*  
*Third place, grades K-2*  
*"The Icy Lake Rhythm"*

Like the first place poem in this age group, this third place poem, "The Icy Lake Rhythm," also engages the reader by comparing nature's gifts to musical sounds and instruments. This quiet poem occurs during the winter, and we see appropriate comparisons to evoke the sounds of that season.

In the opening three lines, the speaker presents a "kettle-like lake" that is "being inhabited / by snow and ice." Especially pleasing is the phrase of "kettle-like" to describe the lake; the comparison of a kettledrum to the lake gives depth, shape, and a musical sound in only two words. The verb, "inhabited" further denotes the lake as something else—a home for snow and ice.

In the next four lines, the speaker acknowledges that the lake's ice and snow are "changing," and that "an echo is in the ice." What a skillful way to describe the vastness and solitude of this lake. The speaker then describes "the cold and peace..." of the lake as sounding "like the trombone, so free." At first one may not see the truth in this comparison; however, if one imagines the long note from the trombone, it does exhibit a "cold and peaceful" sound.

The last four lines are especially resonant:

The sky is a high note,  
the echo is in the air.  
The trees whistle then  
-silence.

Here, the poet reestablishes the vast wilderness by repeating the word "echo." The last two lines suggest rising and falling wind: "The trees whistle then / -silence." It is the line break after "then" and the hyphen before the last word, "silence," that dramatically end the poem.

In "The Icy Lake Rhythm," the poet successfully chooses images and sounds that mimic the visual and auditory elements of the poem. Congratulations to this talented writer!

*Thank you for the pleasure of reading your work!*

Marie Kane, Final Judge  
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