

Winning Poems in 2020 CFCP, Inc., Annual Contest

5. Nature, Second Place

What to Do on August 26th

Go to Rock Lake, Plumas country.
Before sunrise, stand
on the slate ledge that juts the lake.
Look to the western shore,
watch sunlight creep down
the red bank of schist.

Now turn east, look up
to the canyon rim
where Jacob's ladders converge
at a dark hemlock
silhouetted
against the bright sky.

In the moment before the sun
crests the wall
the entire tree—bole,
branches, foliage—
will flash
into silver filigree.

Then the orb's leading edge
will clear the jagged ridge, shooting
gold deep into liquid indigo
warming your face
flooding you
with light.

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