

Winning Poems in 2022 CFCP, Inc., Annual Contest

5. Nature, Third Place

**To Winter**

O Winter cold, O Winter bold, blustery  
With whiskered face, gorged cheeks,  
Fierce eyes, Friend Wind blows you in.  
Wind, invisible not sensible, responsible  
For tempests, floods, blizzards, more.  
Season comrades, you conspire to create  
Crisis: terrible to remind us we cannot  
Resolve every problem; angry to tell us  
Earth is not a tool for our gratification!

O Winter, this time you've snowed us in;  
We hold each other close under blankets  
At night; by day, wrap ourselves in shawls,  
Mittens, down jackets even indoors as  
Outdoors, a racing white screen before us,  
Your friend howls, stings, hurls us down  
Until we make our way to the porch, push  
The door open with logs from our pile.  
Breathless, fearful, we fall to the floor.

With frozen feet, we stoke fading fire,  
Drag cushions and quilts to the heart,  
Cuddle by warmth; listen to you moan,  
Winter, wail, groan in darkness. Shivery,  
We breathe in puffs unseen; as flames  
Again begin to die, we hear a last bang  
At the window, huddle to sleep. Waking  
To prisms of light through cracked glass,  
We enshrine silence after the ice storm.

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