

Honorable Mentions (Unranked)

**winter spring
under the still sheen
water trickles**

*Becca McCauley
The Paideia School, Atlanta, GA*

The fun here is the flexibility of the word "spring." Taken literally, in context, it appears to refer to water flowing from the ground. But it is trying to become the season!

**nature preserve
where we first kissed
forever wild**

*Tom Painting
The Paideia School, Atlanta, GA*

Another instance of a forever vow. Like vows of love, the environmentally affirmative notion of "forever wild" is a promise that may or may not be honored over the years.

**morning light—
enveloped by
a snow squall**

*Anne Burgevin
Homeschool Creative Writing Teacher, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA*

It may be an illusion, based upon knowledge other than the evidence of our vision, but it does seem that the light of morning is different from the light of afternoon, even when we can't see the sun and there are no westward reaching shadows to be seen.

**sprays of forsythia
a lone traveler
at the backdoor**

*Anne Burgevin
Homeschool Creative Writing Teacher, Pennsylvania Furnace, PA*

This has the feel of another time; the Great Depression perhaps. Once it was not uncommon for rural people to find a "traveler" at the back door, looking for a little work; enough to earn a meal. Forsythia are among the first bright flowerings of springtime and yet they often seem, despite their yellow spirits, to harbor a deep sadness, perhaps because, being first, they are also alone.