

What I Have Left is Imagining

by Heather MacLeod

I used to live in the arctic,
but I left so often my leaving
became unnoticed, an event
which slipped away.

- 5 I used to live in the arctic,
thought I was a boomerang,
my point of origin the north,
but I grew up, here in the Cariboo
with bit and bridle, Bay and Appaloosa,
10 instead of inukshuk¹ and ulu², Char and Whitefish.

I used to live in the arctic,
found my ancestors' footsteps in the Northwest Passage
trailing behind Franklin³, and found
what it meant, for me, to be Métis.

- 15 I used to live in the arctic,
a place where my Indian blood
found room to live, elliptical
it moved within me, solid as snow,
smooth and clear as the first layer of ice
20 over the waters of Great Slave.

- I used to live in the arctic,
and what I have left is imagining;
imagine me talking to you
frost trailing out with my breath;
25 pretend I speak sounds in the shape of syllabics,
say thank you in Dogrib, pretend I cry in Cree.

¹ inukshuk: *stone cairn*

² ulu: *a knife*

³ Franklin: *a northern explorer*

PART B: POETRY

Total Value: 20 marks

Suggested Time: 25 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the poem “What I Have Left is Imagining” on page 1 in the **Readings Booklet**. Select the **best** answer for each question and record your choice on the Response Form provided.

11. The reference to “Franklin” (line 13) is an example of
- A. a fantasy.
 - B. an allusion.
 - C. an allegory.
 - D. a stereotype.
12. The word “elliptical” (line 17) is used to imply a
- A. skating rink.
 - B. math problem.
 - C. field of solid snow.
 - D. cycle of movement.
13. The phrase “solid as snow” (line 18) is an example of
- A. simile.
 - B. metaphor.
 - C. apostrophe.
 - D. understatement.
14. The phrase “smooth and clear” (line 19) is used to describe the
- A. ice.
 - B. snow.
 - C. blood.
 - D. waters.
15. The final stanza suggests that the speaker imagines that she
- A. is freezing.
 - B. cannot speak.
 - C. is short of breath.
 - D. has returned home.

16. Line 26, “say thank you in Dogrib, pretend I cry in Cree,” suggests Dogrib and Cree are
- A. places.
 - B. animals.
 - C. syllables.
 - D. languages.
17. The first line in each stanza illustrates the use of
- A. rhyme.
 - B. rhythm.
 - C. repetition.
 - D. run-on sentences.
18. The tone of this poem is primarily
- A. angry.
 - B. cheerful.
 - C. reflective.
 - D. humorous.

