

**Teaching**  
Sheryl Lain

No pre-set lesson can contain  
the joy seeping around the edges of Jason's couplet  
or Sammi's haiku that careens out of control  
chasing her butterfly of thought.  
No test explains Luann's tears or Eric's burst of laughter  
as their eyes trace the lines of thought on the open page.  
No grammar worksheet makes plain the why  
for Weldon whose eyes  
drift to the south-facing window  
seeing answers in  
March's bare tree limbs etched on blue sky.



Before participating in the Wyoming Writing Project, Sheryl was a closet poet, never dreaming of sharing her little snippets about her students with them. But when she did give the poems to students, they wrote her back. Tom Romano's lines of trust crisscrossed the classroom. Besides teaching, Sheryl is a national presenter and has published poems, essays and monographs. Sheryl loves kids and the teachers who teach them. She can be contacted at [sheryllain@aol.com](mailto:sheryllain@aol.com).