

2015 MCC Creative Writing Contest

Poetry Category

Honorable Mention: “*Rain,*” by Elizabeth Enos

From grey and troubled skies it falls upon
My window pane, an icy torrent strikes the glass.
Small drops inscribe ornate designs; a strange,
Obscure tongue speaking to this soul of mine.
This quiet voice, it has to be seen as well as heard.
My eyes cannot translate those words, but these
Truths inscribed, my soul cannot refute, nor fail
To hear. So, here I sit as these drops fall
And here, my healing heart will find relief.

JUDGE’S COMMENTS

I’m drawn in by the power of the rain image for the speaker, but then when I try to figure out the message, I’m confused, mainly because of the contradictions. In the beginning, “An icy torrent strikes the glass,” but then, “small drops” and a “quiet voice” are referred to. What image of water do you want to work with? Later, “Eyes can’t translate the words,” but also, “My soul can’t refute the truths inscribed.” How does the speaker know what the message is? The poem’s situation has promise, but it needs a clear focus.

*Catherine Frerichs is retired after many years of teaching writing, literature, and other humanities courses at Glen Oaks Community College, Albion College, and, most recently, Grand Valley State University. She is the author of *Desires of the Heart: A Daughter Remembers Her Missionary Parents* (Cold River Studio, 2010), in which she uses her parents’ letters, journals, and other research to write about her parents’ 40 years of working in Papua New Guinea and the costs to their children. Currently, she is working on a book that explores her relationship with her three Sudanese children whom she foster-parented for seven years and who have remained her children.*