

Lee Barlowe by Josie Wilson

It was not his fault the ice broke.
The fish below must have had enough of the cold.
The birds above must have landed too harshly.

It was not Lee's fault the ice broke.
The morning of his seventeenth birthday,
His mother calls out to no one.

It was not his fault the ice broke,
Mr. Barlowe tells himself,
His son nowhere to be found.

It was not Lee's fault the ice broke.
Mr. Barlowe stays silent as his wife calls the police.
He knows where Lee went.
He knows the police will not find him.

It was Mr. Barlowe's fault the ice broke.
The morning of his son's seventeenth birthday,
He knew the ice was thin.

But a real man
Wouldn't be scared
To brave a little water.