

Tsuigeki

A poem by Nicholas Gruber

He ran not knowing where
Just trying to escape

Gracefully gliding across the tundra
Silently his pursuer follows
Cautiously he peered behind him
He saw nothing but snow

Blood dripped from his muzzle
It was not his own
A dead wolf he called brother
He must not stop to grieve
For the humans draw near

A blinding light approaches
A roar of a beast untold
Approaches with two humans

Closer the roaring gets
The humans ready their rifles
His sibling dragged with them

Twin rifles crack
He tumbles in the snow
Snow once white
Stains crimson

He writhes in agony
Agony changes to numbness
His eyes once liquid amber
Begin to cloud in death
Never again will he see
His beloved mate

A female nudges him
Trying to make him stir
She throws back her head
A long mournful howl comes forth
For her mate has passed