

January

January

January

Now is here—

A fine new start

For a whole new year.

The snow comes down

In the dark of night.

When we awake

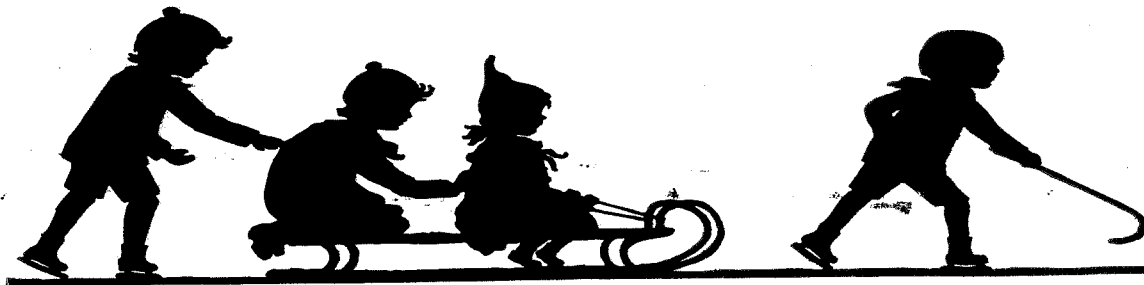
The world is white.

In January

When there's snow,

We get our sleds

And away we go.



January

Little January

Tapped at my door today.

And said, "Put on your winter wraps,

And come outdoors to play."

Little January

Is always full of fun;

Today we coasted down the hill,

Until the set of the sun.

Little January

Will stay a month with me

And we will have such jolly times—

Just come along and see.

—Winifred C. Marshall



Beginning a New Year Means

taking off

clothes spattered with
chocolate milk
and mud

throwing away

scribbled pages
full of crossed out words
and mistakes

watching

old snow
melting away

putting on

clean clothes
without spots or wrinkles

opening

white pages
with nothing written
on them yet

watching

fresh snow
falling
without firemarks
or footprints



—Ruth Whitman



Perhaps

All day long the penguins play
in the cold Antarctic sea—
diving

splashing

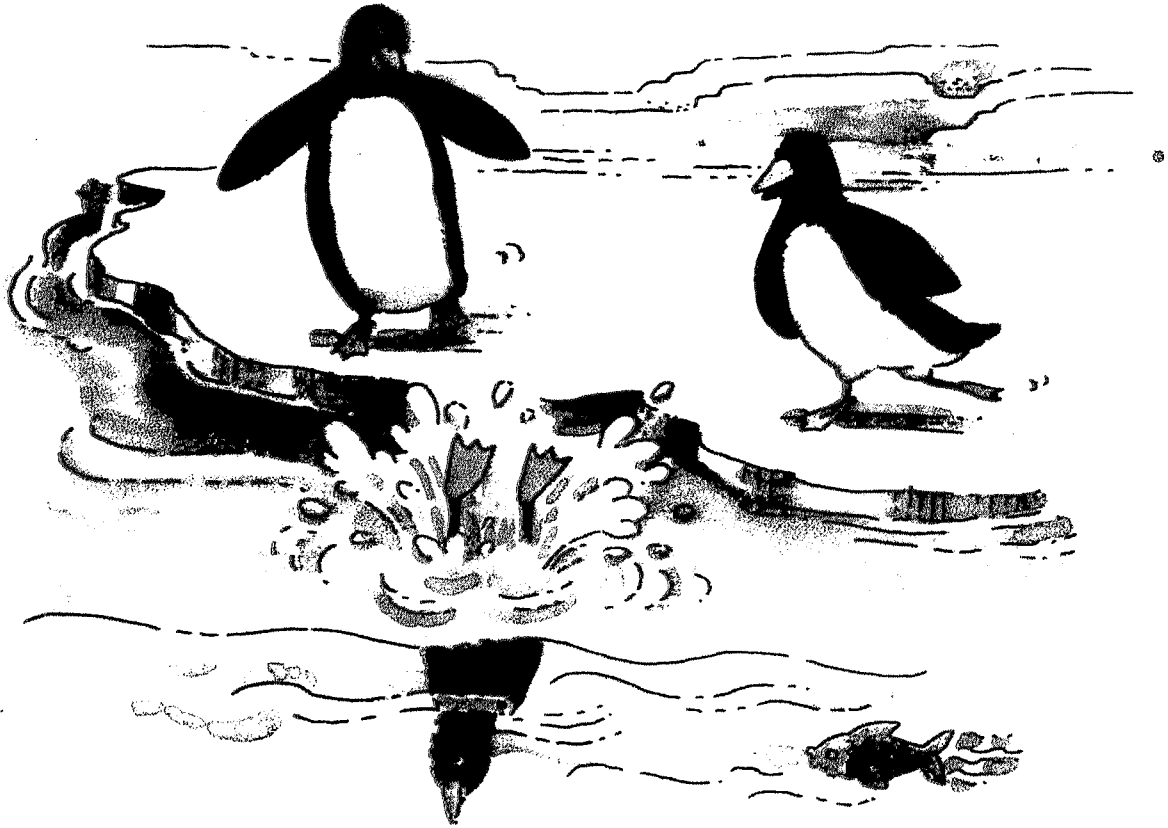
leaping

dashing

in slippery, flippery glee.

While other birds chase blue-sky dreams
the sea to penguins sings—
perhaps they aren't birds at all
but fish with feet and wings.

—Maxwell Higgins



Five Little Inuit

Five little Inuit fishing in the ice,
The first one said, "I'm glad we're being nice."
The second one said, "There's a polar bear over there."
The third one said, "I don't care."
The fourth one said, "I'm going to my igloo."
The fifth one said, "I think I'm going with you."
Then wooo went the wind, and out went the light,
And five little Inuit skated out of sight.





Chinese New Year

Flowers and Nin Wah,
Tangerines, oranges,
Wealth and good fortune
and luck to us all!

Midnight will bring us
Red envelopes, Lai-See,
Filled with some money
and riches for all!

Time for remembering
Grandparents, parents,
Neighbors and friends:
with fine gifts for them all!

We will be offered
A tray of togetherness,
Seeds, candied coconut,
sweetmeats for all!

Days of the Dragon Play,
Nights filled with singing,
Then comes Ten Chieh
with lanterns for all!

Soon the parade starts—
With loud firecrackers!—
The dragon is here!—
Happy New Year to all!



—Myra Cohn Livingston

Glossary

Nin Wah: pictures

Lai-See: good-luck money

Ten Chieh: the Feast of the Lanterns, which, along with a parade, traditionally ends the New Year celebration



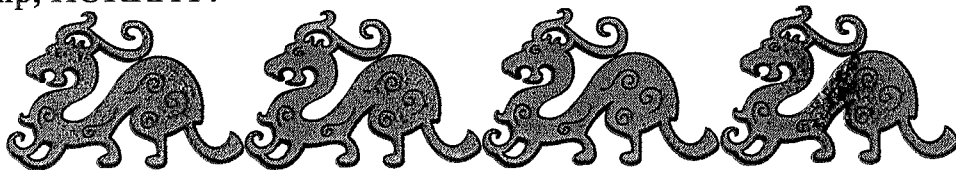
FIVE GREEN DRAGONS

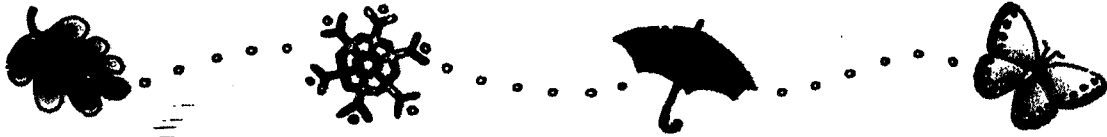


**FIVE GREEN DRAGONS MAKING SUCH A ROAR
ONE DANCED AWAY AND THEN THERE WERE FOUR
FOUR GREEN DRAGONS DANCING ROUND A TREE
ONE DANCED AWAY AND THEN THERE WERE THREE
THREE GREEN DRAGONS DANCING ROUND YOU
ONE DANCED AWAY AND THEN THERE WERE TWO
TWO GREEN DRAGONS DANCING IN THE SUN
ONE DANCED AWAY AND THEN THERE WAS ONE
ONE GREEN DRAGON HAVING LOTS OF FUN
SHE DANCED AWAY, AND THEN THERE WERE NONE.**

Chinese New Year Dragon

There's a great big dragon coming our way,
A great big dragon on this holiday
Let's grab our lanterns and follow along,
Dancing, and waving, and singing a song.
There's a great big dragon coming our way,
Hip, hip, HURRAY!

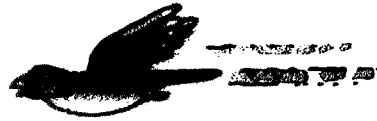




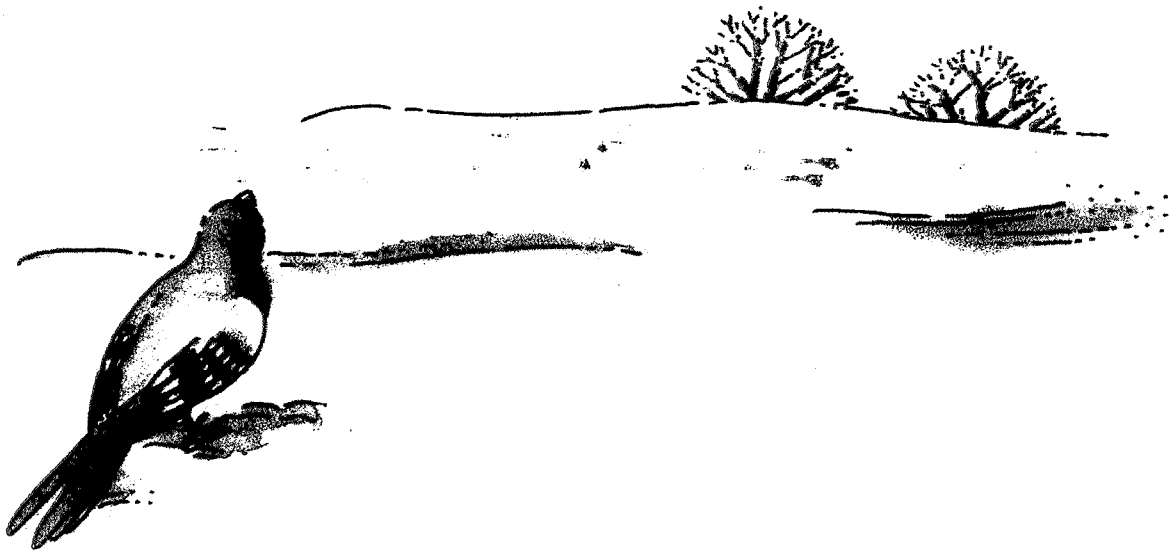
Dreams

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.



—Langston Hughes

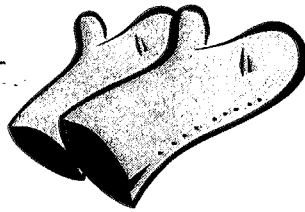


The Chubby Little Snowman

A chubby little snowman
Had a carrot nose
Along came a rabbit
And what do you
suppose?
That hungry little bunny,
Looking for his lunch,
ATE the snowman's

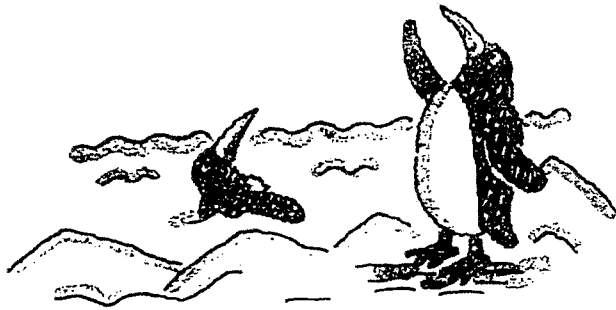
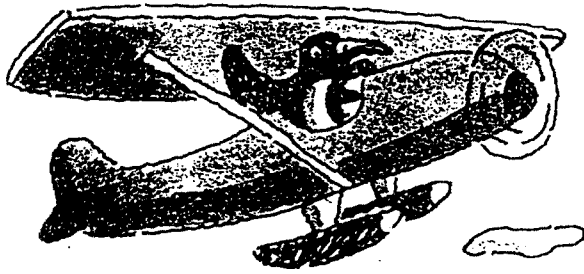


carrot nose...
Nibble, nibble, **CRUNCH!**



Mittens

Stripes or dots or sparkling white,
Mittens in winter fit just right.
Wool and cotton, maybe leather-
Mittens warm us in cold weather.
In rainbow colors and darkest black,
Mittens fit in a pocket or in your pack.
Thumbs alone, fingers together,
We love mittens in cold, cold weather.



Penguin

I know a bird
That cannot fly:
Penguin is its name.
It cannot fly,
But it can swim
With speed that wins it fame!

I know a bird
That lives on ice
And waddles by the sea.
It looks so cute
In its black-and-white suit,
As handsome as can be!

Fish

How I wish
I were a fish!
My day would begin
Flapping my fins.
I'd make a commotion
Out in the ocean.
It would be cool
To swim in a school.
In the sea,
I'd move so free,
With just one thought:
Don't get caught!