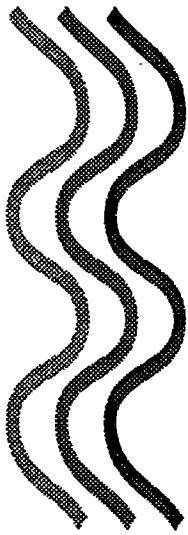
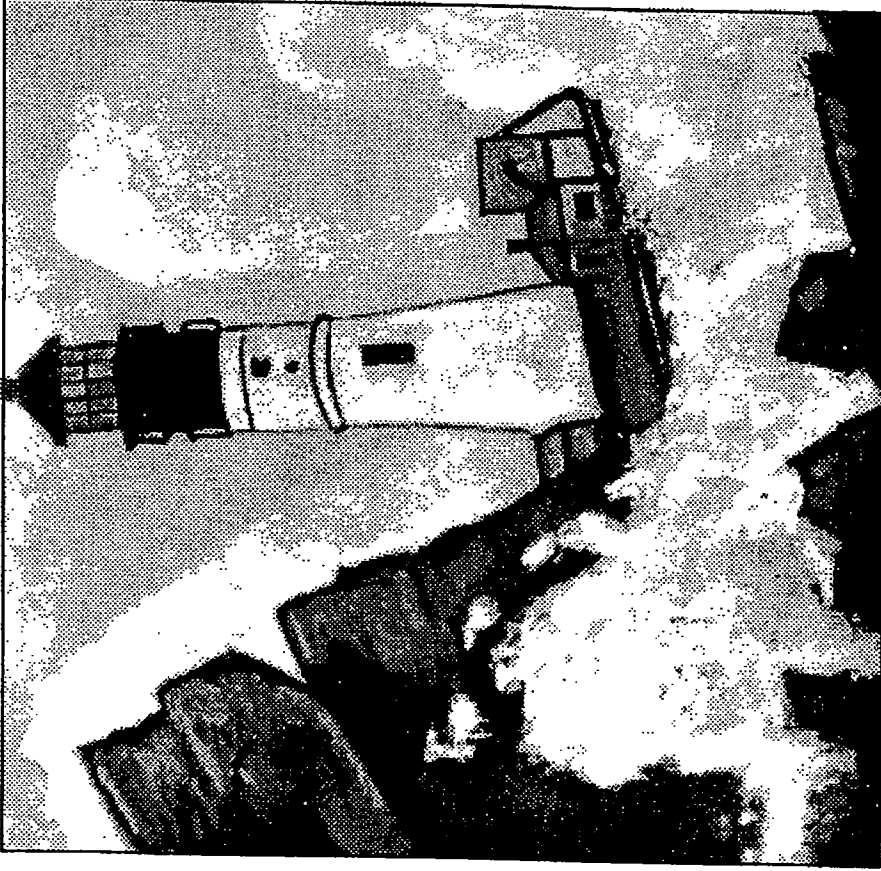


III



***Poets and
Painters
of the Sea***



Painters and Poets of Sealife and Seascapes



The *Adventure* and the environment of Cape Ann are unique resources for introducing students to poetry, literature and painting. This unit encourages and guides students in the development of their own voices and visions – through experimentation with poetry and painting. It allows students to express their feelings about the harbor environment and the art and literature that has celebrated the spirit of Gloucester and Cape Ann.

The great American painter Georgia O'Keefe once described the process of creating art as follows:

"I feel that a real living form is the natural result of the individual's effort to create the living thing out of the adventure of his (her) spirit into the unknown – and from that experience comes the desire to make the unknown known."

We feel this creative tension whenever we sit down before a blank sheet of paper or canvas and try to make what we feel visible. This tension can be, by turns, frustrating, exciting and

frightening. When we facilitate this process with our students, by giving them the necessary intellectual skills and the all-important permission to create, we serve the whole student. Teachers are encouraged to write, draw, or paint along with the class, because by doing so we validate the students' experience and join in with the healthy risk-taking that ensues.

The poetry activities include gaining skills in creative writing techniques such as metaphor, simile and personification. Poetry is a celebration of life and language. Children, given the opportunity and the skills, will use poetic language and structure with facility and great pleasure. Poem-writing can become an end in itself or a way to improve upon other forms of prose writing. Poetry is also a means of facilitating written and oral expression – since poetry is meant to be read aloud.

The art activities include gaining skills in visualization, expression and the use of different media. The unit provides a gallery of different styles – Realism, Impressionism, Expressionism, Modernism, Surrealism and Abstraction of the sea environment. These examples provide a resource base of ideas for students to draw upon when they create. All great artists studied the Master painters and used them as a platform to leap into new ways of expression.

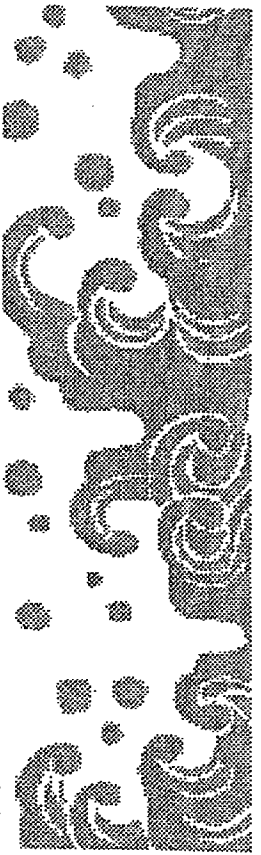
POEMS

by 5th grade Gloucester students

The waves come up
And splash the mast
They roar like mean old tigers.
The wind is strong
The days are long
The crew is getting tired

We try real hard
To get along, and make it through the day
But the wind is strong
The days are long
And the crew is getting tired

Finally we see the shore,
and jump and yell for joy.
The wind has died down,
We fall to the ground,
In joy that we are home



The waves splashed over the side of
the boat

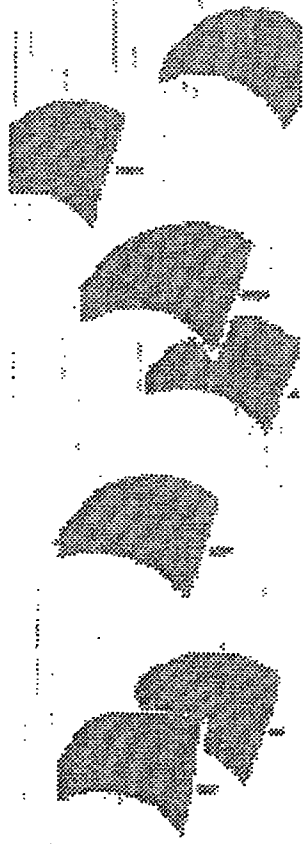
Thirty feet high they go, and then
they crash on the deck

It's freezing cold but work on

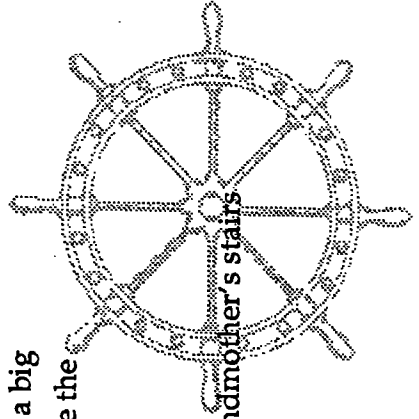
For the work needs to be done

Grab on to anything or you could get
washed away

Ahhhh!



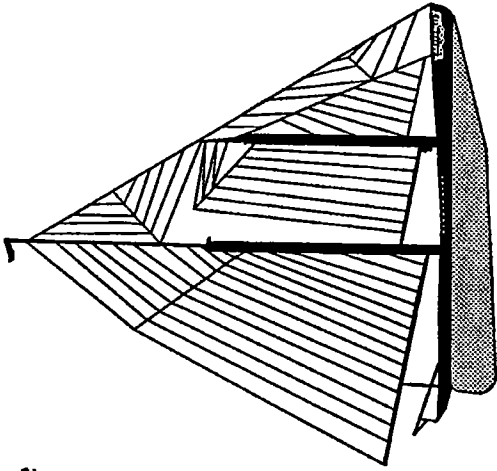
The sails are long and broad. They are
like snow flakes flying through the
air as they blow. The wind catches
them and blows them up like a big
balloon. As they fly, they take the
ship with them.



The wheel creaks like my grandmother's stairs

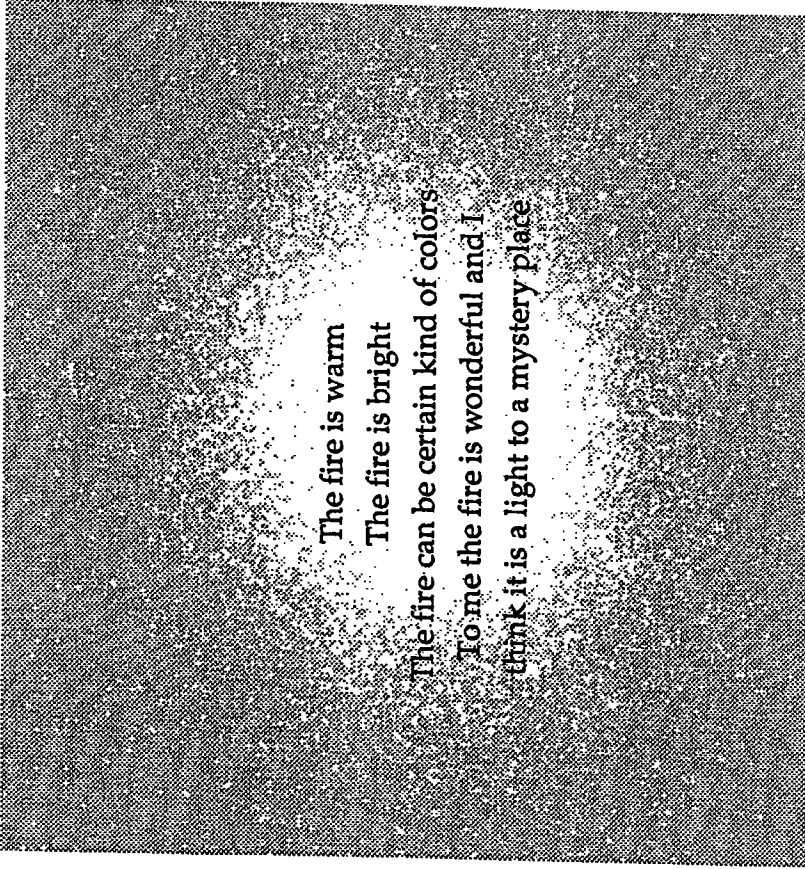
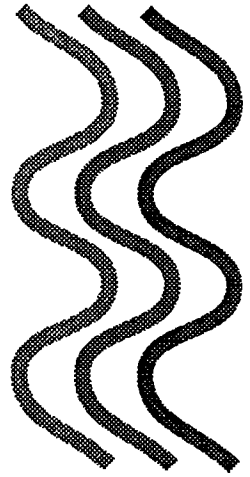
I'm a steel amazing wheel...

A porthole is a looking hole
only big enough for a pole



Well look down there
It's a boat I see
Shall I go see it
Or shall I adore it
The Adventure it is
Working hard to catch
those mighty fish
Sailing along the Atlantic Coast

Listening to the cracking fire
its warm air fills the room
with smell of forest. Dancing
flames send my eyes wandering
to an old wooden trunk.
It stored old maps of
which a vessel must of
swirled thru my imagination
as so did the flames of
that cracking fire.



The fire is warm
The fire is bright
The fire can be certain kind of colors
To me the fire is wonderful and I
think it is a light to a mystery place

Here I am in a cabin of a boat
Burning fire in front of eight
people
I am black and ashes
inside of me
lots of noise
and warm
Crowded and small

Adult Poems

Whale at Twilight

The sea is enormous, but calm with evening and sunset,
rearranging its island for the night, changing its ocean
blues,
smoothing itself against the reefs, without playfulness,
without thought.
No stars are out, only sea birds flying to distant reefs.
No vessels intrude, no lobstermen haul their pots,
only somewhere out toward the horizon a thin column of
water appears
and disappears again, and then rises once more,
tranquil as a fountain in a garden where no wind blows.

Elizabeth Coatsworth

EarthStar

She is like the Earth to me
I a Shooting Star
falling to her embrace.

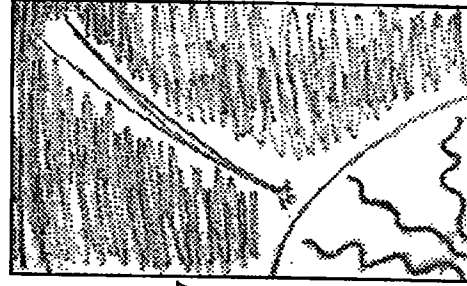
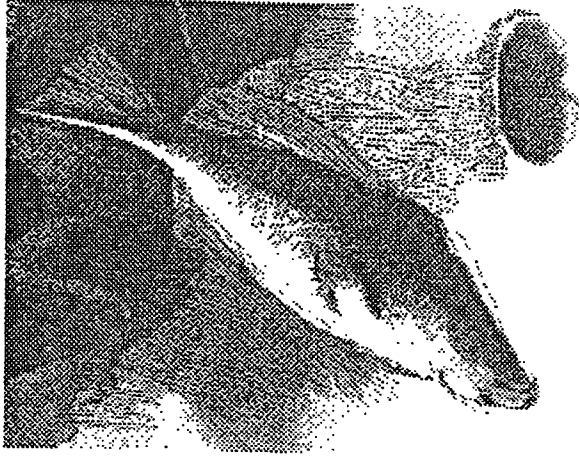
Her children, flowers that bloom each day
in the face of dawn.
Gems in the light, they grow brighter as
She nurtures them
with a Spirit that
I the Shooting Star become.

John Madama

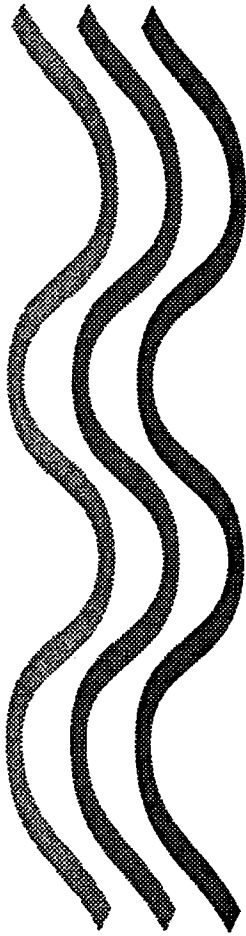
Seal

See how he dives
From the rocks with a zoom!
See how he darts
Through his watery room
Past crabs and eels
And green seaweed,
Past fluffs of sandy
Minnow feed!
see how he swims
With a swerve and a twist,
A flip of the flipper,
A flick of the wrist!
Quicksilver-quick
Softer than spray,
Down he plunges
And sweeps away;
before you can think
Before you can utter
Words like "Dill pickle"
Or "Apple butter,"
Back up he swims
Past sting-ray and shark,
Out with a zoom,
A whoop, a bark;
Before you can say
Whatever you wish,
He plops at your side
With a mouthful of fish!

William Jay Smith

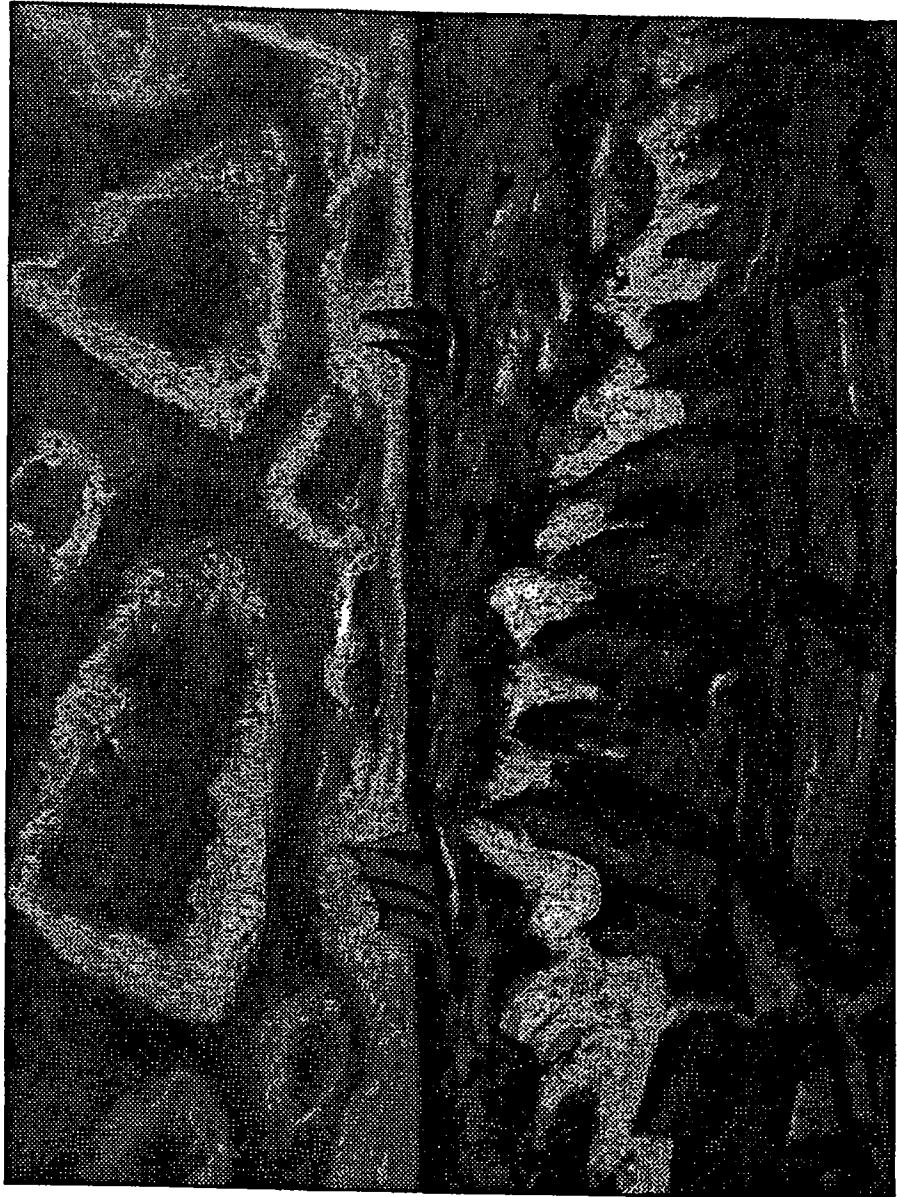


Art Gallery



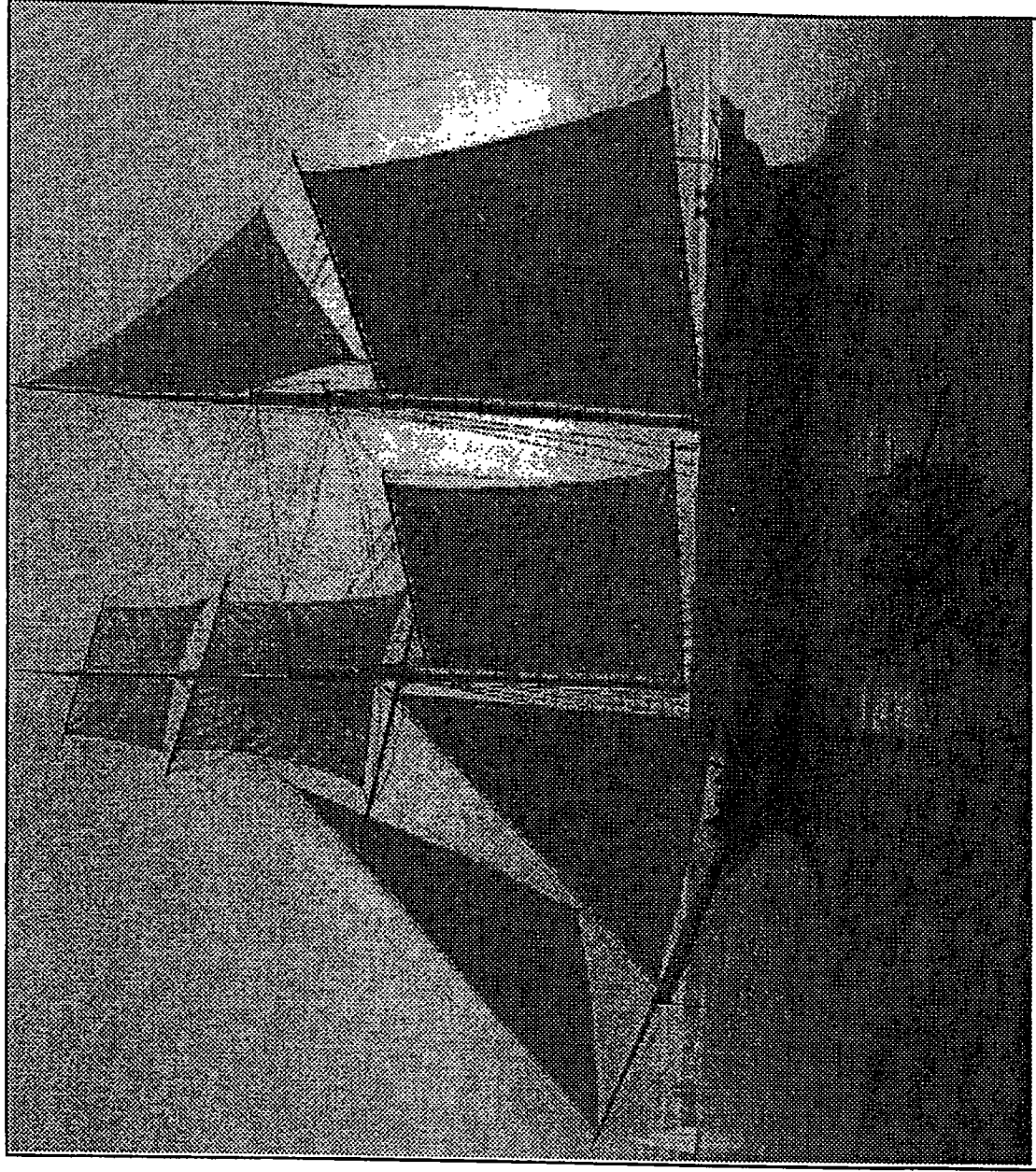
"What I have to express is not handled with words. It must come to the observer. It must carry its influence into the region... which is more than the mind."

"The artist should fear to become the slave to detail. An artist strives to express the thought and not the surface of the painting. What good is a storm cloud accurate in form and color if the storm is not therein."



Marsden Hartley, Northern Seascape, off the Banks, 1937
Style: Modernism

Lane's paintings express a realism bathed in a crystalline light – called Luminism. He captured the character of maritime New England, the reflective sheen of calm water, ... the agitated surface of wind-blown waves, the clarity of light-filled still air and the moist atmosphere of cloudy humid days.



Fitz Hugh Lane, Becalmed off Halfway Rock (detail), 1860
Style: Realism, Luminism

