

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE PRIZE WINNER

Ode to a Maple Tree

Oh *l'arbre d'érable*

Your north-eastern nectar

Running at winter's end

Sweetens our way to spring

Amidst a myriad of brave buds

And spiralling keys you propel us

To think of flight and safe landings

Your spiked green leaves

Miraculously appear and grow

To shade us from the summer's solar glare

Until regal autumn reigns

When wandering spirits

Transcend to your magical world of

Scarlet gems and yellow gold

Uplifting, elegant maple

Transformed by winter's cold

Your unadorned Y-shaped branches

Positively embrace *l'hiver's* blue-white snow

Affirming to the universe

That there is solace and beauty

In each season's soul

Carol Wiens

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