

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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