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## Apple Trees in January

Mary J. Iuppa  
*St. John Fisher College*

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Whenever I say I live on a farm, no bigger  
than a postage stamp, on the outskirts of a  
small town, whose name is famous in a  
rhyme, I know I am taking you by surprise  
in the same way the Pied Piper's pretty  
music jiggled children down a cobbled path.

Can you imagine, dearies, living here in  
winter?

The apple trees seem to be head bent,  
leaning into an arctic wind that swirls a mist  
of snow down its narrow row; its light voile  
caught on nimble branches like Degas's  
dancers waiting for the music to rise on a  
hundred twenty-eighth note.

This is what one who watches from a  
window sees in weather's bluster . . . and I  
wonder when you are traveling by my  
words' compact car, is this the rural place  
few will remember?



*M.J. Iuppa*

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