



SPARKPOINT

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THE COLD
REALITY

Inside:

Why is it that we associate
difficult truths with harshness in
the elements?

Welcome

We may not have had any snow, but it has certainly not been warm over the past few days and this weekend is set to be even more nippy. Weather analogies and imagery have been around for as long as there has been any form of literature – but why is a chill in the air such a powerful and evocative way of dealing with more abstract issues?

A Cold Night (extract)

A snowy icy night, painted hill tops all are white,
all the rivers flow like ice, and raindrops fall as hail,
from so very, very high, above.

Whispered breath, a smoky kind of grey,
as I wander in the coldness of my winter dreams,
trees stretching skywards hold distant memories
of rustled leaves and a lazy warming friendly
breeze.

I so much love you and I want you by my side
in the coldness of this dark and lonely frozen
hour.

David Taylor

POEM OF THE WEEK

imbricate

adjective

Describing anything that is overlapping or interlocked,
especially of fish scales, fallen leaves and fresh snowflakes.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Some lovely urban myths surround this classic from Travis. Having taken a holiday to escape Glasgow weather, it rained solidly on the lead singer as it did again when he first performed the song. Click to listen.



MUSIC OF THE WEEK



COLD WORDS

With her best-seller 'The Goldfinch' about to be released as an adaptation for television, Donna Tartt's *The Secret History* contains a passage widely regarded to be one of the most powerful evocations of the harshness of winter in modern literature. The book is an exceptional read – click the link to hear her talk about it – don't forget that it's available in the library.



A TRANSIENT ART FORM

Professional artists who chose snow as their medium of choice have an interesting take on what makes art 'art'. Click the link to see some of the entrants for the international snow-sculpting championships. They really are truly breath-taking and what the creators have to say about issues of permanence is equally fascinating.



WEATHER AND MORALITY

Written as a morality play by John Heywood in 1532, this unusual piece sees the king of the gods, Jupiter, attempts to work out the ideal state of the weather for Englishmen – the answer being, of course, that everyone wants something different. Click the link for access to footage of a modern staging of this unusual drama.



This splendid pre-Raphaelite painting by Waterhouse entitled 'Boreas' evokes, impressively, the power of the wind. Known for the romantic use of colour and for his nostalgic themes, the artist was prolific in his time.

IMAGE OF THE WEEK