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## Skating, 1976

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*College of DuPage*

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Skating, 1976

Jason Snart

on Grandpa's frozen pond  
in her red toque pulled low, scarf tied  
at her neck, cheeks red too and shouting  
to the boys in moist clouds from her lips - faster  
faster Crack  
the Whip.

She at least heard music, spun on one blade  
that other leg stuck out behind, arms  
out, a compass too close to the real pole.

Boys heard Hockey Night In Canada  
and the crack of sticks at what we decided  
was center ice. I laughed into my leather gloves  
(they tasted like salt) when her girl-skates made her fall  
forward, her brother laughed more. She waited

until we finished, then sang  
to herself, I could see the white breaths, she spun  
around the ice, walking in her skates, imagining  
maybe a partner, an audience. Once,

she came in after too long, her toe clicked  
against the linoleum  
in the kitchen in time  
with the grandfather clock  
in the parlor.