

# 5 HDGHU · V Into the Cyclorama

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## PART ONE

**Into the Cyclorama** seems obsessed with history – the difficulty of piecing one together and the desire to do so. The book closes the first poem with the discovery, *ò – – Š † ... † • Ž † † ^ • † – Š † • † Š ' Ž † • a* then guides us through a gallery of family portraits. The last poem in Part One depicts the speaker and



12. Snow appears throughout the book, some figuratively, some literally, and in several poems in Part Three, most noticeably in "The Snow" and "The Snow on the Mountain." What ideas do the snow images seem to convey? Do their meanings change over the course of the book? Do you think the snow is a metaphor for something else? What do you think it represents?
13. At the end of the book, do you feel a sense of closure, whether emotional or narrative? What contributed most to your sense of closure? Which poem would you have placed at the end, or would you have written a new one?

## WRITE YOUR OWN

Choose a family member with a past that makes you curious, sad, proud, or angry. Write a poem reconstructing (or making up) some element of their life. Use the "The Snow" poem in Part One for ideas about approach.

Think about a musical form that you like (i.e. country western ballad, rock anthem, waltz, rag, string quartet), and do 5 minutes of research about that form. Pick a poem that you like. Now revise your poem using that musical form as a guiding shape.

Write a poem about a plant, animal, or physical object that appears often in your poems? Make a quick list of words that come to your mind about it, whether nouns, verbs, adjectives, or adverbs. Then write a list poem using those words.