

Episode 4 – Text 3

Place – A Poem

By A. Noelle Miller (2013)

Through prairie dust and flowers
Oak and lodgepole and crackling scrub brush, dry basalt
Rivulets of rain and thick snow
and drought
Large and small and laughing and determined and desperate
Paths traced

We leave a story
Everywhere we touch feels toes, breath, bones, purpose
And if the memories are dim they are not forgotten

Sink knuckle deep into sphagnum moss and stop
smell
life, its feathers bright with dew and greening

Quick! Salmon slip so fast, themselves silver water
a pause, a struggle, a sockeye
still in two hands
ten fingers
a net

Such a quick drumbeat, this life

May I suggest a poem:

Travel gently and consider those before
And those near you
And those coming

What will they know?

The past has a way of whispering in the future.

About the Author

A.Noelle Miller is an Alaska Native who works as a speech-language pathologist on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. She received her master's degree from the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Washington State University in 2007. In addition to being a published poet, her life involves much outdoor activity with close connections to the water, the salmon, and horses. She is certified in hippotherapy (providing horse therapy).