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## Winter Storm, The Beach at Leland

William Nowak  
*Grand Valley State University*

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# Winter Storm, The Beach at Leland

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WILLIAM NOWAK

The gale winds shake my van  
nearing the blizzard engulfed beach

For miles we've heard them thunder

fourteen foot waves deep green  
until they smash against the shuddering  
harbor seawall and light tower  
already buried under snow and ice and new spray  
already hardening against the madness

I brought my family to see this violence

to wonder  
leaning into the wind just to stand  
my children clutching my big orange parka  
in dusk's howling half light

The violence is so complete

now becoming seductive  
blowing snow and low sky  
the way one's dreams can be  
a deep green beauty that takes you in

takes you through the night

past Thomas' close and bully night  
past Roethke's long and tearless night

To finally become next summer's harbor

through the madness  
my blinder masks of years  
falling as ice chunks away

I linger

looking out to look inside  
in acceptance

No longer fearful of what I see