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## Rocky Mountain Runoff

Jim Walker

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## Rocky Mountain Runoff

Between pudding gray and barnyard brown,  
The water rolls smooth through evening  
Cool from its mountain source,  
Life force to the desert prairies.

Breezing from the Rockies,  
The summer winds stream  
Barley tufts and heading wheat into  
Fieldsful of shimmer, undulant ripples  
Ripening seaswells of motion.

Eastward patches of sugarbeets sprout  
Thick cauliflower leaves, rich green,  
Their heavy white roots fattening  
Towards harvest.

Clouds along the mountain rift  
Reveal a clear thin line of gold  
Silhouetting distant, hawk-sharp peaks  
Staged by the lingering chinook arch.

As sunset brightens, the chill of dusk  
Begins to settle like an unseen fog  
From the bare sky over fallow fields.  
Only a fluttering grasshopper breaks  
The easing fluidity of wind,  
The silent flow of darkening water,  
The long-dying sun's luxurious descent.

—Jim Walker

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Jim Walker is chairman of the Communications and Language Arts Division at Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus. He is the brother of Helen Walker Jones, whose poem appears on page 182.