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# A Tribute to High School English

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## A Tribute to High School English

There is a tree, bowed and bent  
as if some boy  
had run up its spine.  
But there is no ice storm here  
just the snow, which baptizes  
and the wind making naked  
limbs that leaves once covered,  
so that the tree bends, not broken  
by blooded youth  
but bared and weighed out by winter.  
With branches held out  
as if in supplication,  
or understanding.  
For nakedness reveals truth.  
And what would we swing for anyway?  
To reach high, glimpse visions,  
and fall again?  
Better yet to stand  
where trees have broken themselves  
where the winds strips leaves and faces.  
To see and yet remain.  
Then perhaps,  
to bow.

—Dan Belnap