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Meet Conference on Poetry and Teaching Faculty Gibson Fay-LeBlanc

Gibson Fay-LeBlanc's first collection of poems, *Death of a Ventriloquist*, was chosen by Lisa Russ Spaar for the Vassar Miller Prize and published in 2012. The book received a starred review from Publishers Weekly, spent



several weeks on the Poetry Foundation's list of contemporary best-sellers, and was featured by Poets & Writers as one of a dozen debut collections to watch. His poems have appeared most recently in *jubilat*, *Slice*, and *The Literary Review*, as well as on the *PBS NewsHour's Art Beat*, *The New Republic*, and *Tin House*.

"For more than a decade now, I've taught creative writing and poetry to people of all ages and backgrounds, including young immigrant and refugee students, at-risk high schoolers, undergrads, serious adult writers, and elementary school kids. I thrive off that variety. For example, right now I'm teaching a poetry workshop for undergrads at USM and a fairly high-level adult workshop through the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance. In couple of months, I'll be working with at-risk high schoolers in Gorham and leading a school magazine project with third, fourth, and fifth graders in Portland. There are a lot of things that adult writers and college students know how to do—and I enjoy that level of sophistication and the difficult poems we can tackle together—and yet, the third graders can teach us all quite a bit about messing around and playing with words.

In each of the many different settings in which I teach, I try to pay attention to where my students are and what the next best thing might be for them to do. In my classrooms (whether they're actual classrooms or not), writing almost always begins with reading, with being inspired by other work, and then trying to write our own." - Gibson Fay-LeBlanc

Hockey Dad
by Gibson Fay-LeBlanc

Once you have ice blocks for feet, icicle fingers
and a lump in your throat to tremble your body
with cold tomorrow, you doubt the sanity

of waking at five, the eight-year-old on ice
by six, blades carving shapes you can't name.
And when your boy looks through his coach's face

on the bench, red cheeks, a fire in each wooded
eye, complains about tripping, that number
sixteen with the black mask, says he'll hound

and chop him down if he has to, you doubt
this game. At the hour you venture into the warm
room to thaw out your spine and hear a father

break down his son's backhand highlight spinner
in a voice loud enough for all to hear
you know the annual backyard ice sheet

was a bad idea. But also remember
all those hours with your friends and brother—
legs pushed until muscles wailed, then sang,

knocked down, scrambling up again, skating
the last tenths off the clock, down, up, bearing
each sore ounce, each breath and every

sinew, humbling yourself to rules of a game
and the flawed eyes of a referee—and then ask,
Is this such bad training for what is to come?



Spend your summer at The Frost Place
studying and writing poetry.

Come and be inspired.

- **The Frost Place Conference on Poetry and Teaching - June 21 - 25, 2015**
- **The Frost Place Conference on Poetry - July 12 - 18, 2015**
- **The Frost Place Poetry Seminar - August 2 - 8, 2015**



Frost Is In The Air: Robert Frost's Words, Your Voice

We want you to record your favorite Robert Frost poem and become a part of the Frost Is In The Air digital poem collection project.

Frost Is In The Air is a project aimed at collecting diverse voices reading the poetry of Robert Frost. The digital component, featured on the TFP YouTube channel, makes these poems available to a broad audience. We want you to be a part of this archive.

To participate, choose your favorite Frost poem, or one that speaks to you, and record it, the MP3 format is preferred but others are accepted (query for a complete list.) Once you have it recorded, send the recording to frost@frostplace.org with a line giving permission to post it online.

Include in your recording the following: This is "Poem Name" by Robert Frost recorded for The Frost Place by "Your Name."

We will then add the text and create a video of your reading and post it on our YouTube channel and feature the reading in our newsletter.

We would like a short biographical statement and a photo to post with the poem.

For an example, and to see what we've recorded in the past, access our Frost Is

In the Air poems on our [YouTube Channel](#).

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