

Catch of the day

by [Luci Shaw](#) in the [July 24, 2013](#) issue

It leaps, breaking the skin of the lake  
of possibility, this thing that flashes steel—  
this trout of a poem, wild with life, rainbow scales  
and spiny fins. Now, for patience, the pull of the catch:

I cast, wait for the jerk—the tug of the hook in bony jaw—  
feel the line go taut. The ballet begins, a wrestle  
to land this flailing, feral thing—all thrash and edge—  
and tame it into telling its own muscular story.

I heave it over the edge of its arrival, glorious,  
fighting the whole way, slippery as language.  
Its beauty twitches on the floor boards, its glisten  
spilling over the bottom of my notebook page.