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## Nature's Indefatigable Guide and On Hearing the News

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# On Hearing the News

*for Mary Oliver*

Tonight I hear wolves howl sadly  
from a dark mountain.

The blue river, gathering shadows,  
flows swiftly through the starry night.

Listening to the windy pines  
I know I am not alone in my sorrow.

*John Smelcer*

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JOHN SMELCER is the author of more than 50 books, including ten books of poetry. His most recent poetry collection is *Raven*, a project he began in 1997 with Ted Hughes.