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Poem for the Season

John Smelcer

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Poem for the Season

On a forest trail

leaves on near bare trees
are red and golden words
suspended in sunlight.

An autumn wind rustles them
to the ground where I assemble
the many leaves and with them

write this poem.

John Smelcer

JOHN SMELCER is the last living member who can read, write, and speak the Ahtna tribe of Alaska's severely endangered language. He is the author of 50 books, including the poetry collection *Indian Giver* (Leapfrog, 2016).