

Noël à cinq sens

a poem composed for Fredericton's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, November 29, 2019
By Jenna Lyn Albert, City of Fredericton Poet Laureate 2019 - 2020

l'ouïe (Louis)

windshield wipers act as a metronome,
clearing snow, its white noise, to the rhythm
of *Last Christmas* on the radio—the sound
of sleigh bells tinkling like the river icing over.

le goût

children catch snowflakes on their tongues,
tasting far more than mere water—the cold
morsels delicious as candy canes, barley toys,
sugar cookies: saccharine and smacking of home.

l'odorat

the fragrant vapours of hot apple cider waft
through the cold air: clove and orange peel
blending with the base notes of winter: pine
needles, wood smoke, freshly fallen snow.

le toucher

the wind nips at button noses, roses cheeks.
hands seek warmth in pockets, fleece-lined
mittens. the snow has weight to it, perfect
for building a fort or a *bonhomme de neige*.

la vue

the evergreen is draped in constellations:
boughs a galaxy of glimmering bulbs, tinsel
and ornament. we gravitate towards her,
warm-glow a guiding star come wintertide.