

Whose Tracks are These?



Whose tracks are these I do not know;
Some creature left them in the snow.
A silent place, an icy land,
Unblemished now by human hand,

The bitter wind whips up its might;
Those dainty tracks now hide from sight.
Their story fades from weary eyes;
Above the mountains, storm clouds rise.

The first flakes flutter on my face,
Dancers whirling with measured grace.
I place my skis upon the slope
And like those tracks I homewards grope.

Through a whirl of furious snow,
I see the lights of home now glow.
Whose tracks they were I'll never know.
A mystery hides beneath the snow.



Questions

Answer the following questions with a full sentence:

1. What kind of mark has been left in the snow?
2. Do we know who or what made these marks?
3. How is the writer travelling?
4. How do we know the poem is not about a snowy scene in a flat landscape?
5. How do we know that the weather is not good?
6. In verse 3, why do you think the snowflakes are described as dancers?
7. We are told the tracks have been made in '*... an icy land, Unblemished now by human hand.*' Explain what you think the poet means by this.
8. Comment on the effect and importance of adjectives within the passage.
9. How much of a difference do you think it would make if the passage did not rhyme?

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