

Favorite poems

by [Jean Janzen](#) in the [March 9, 2004](#) issue

One of Mary Oliver's supreme gifts is her ability to find language for rapture as she responds to nature and our place within it. Even as she gazes into putrid swamps and the brutal food chain, she finds beauty and light. She explores and celebrates the mystery of our deaths. With her precise imagery, Oliver transposes the chaos of death's threat into a world of symmetry and amazement. This poem enlarges my faith in the resurrection, and calls me to release myself more freely to the Light in my everyday life.

[White owl flies into and out of the field](#), by Mary Oliver