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| **Winter (EM)**  The year goes, the woods decay, and after,  many a summer dies. The swan  on Bingham’s pond, a ghost, comes and goes.  It goes, and ice appears, it holds,  bears gulls that stand around surprised,  blinking in the heavy light, bears boys  when skates take over swan-tracks gone.  After many summer dyes, the swan-white ice  glints only crystal beyond white. Even  dearest blue’s not there, though poets would find it.  I find one stark scene  cut by evening cries, by warring air.  The muffled hiss of blades escapes into breath,  hangs with it a moment, fades off.  Fades off, goes, the scene, the voices fade,  the line of trees, the woods that fall, decay  and break, the dark comes down, the shouts  run off into it and disappear.  At last the lamps go too, when fog  drives monstrous down the dual carriageway  out to the west, and even in my room  and on this paper I do not know  about that grey dead pane  of ice that sees nothing and that nothing sees. | Connotations of death and dying.  **Word choice –** things are rotting and fading in colour.  The death of summer again confirms fading colours.  **Metaphor** of ‘ghost’ – the swan is ‘haunting’ the pond.  **Word choice – ‘**heavy’ suggest that the winter light is everywhere.  **Word choice** – ‘swan-white’ and ‘crystal’ strengthen idea that all colour has gone.  **Word choice –** ‘dearest’ recalls the memory of summer. We can be hopeful that summer will come again.  **Repetition** - ‘fade’ suggesting joy will disappear.  **List** of things being destroyed.  **Personification** – even sound is fleeing from winter.  **Word choice** – the fog is terrifying and frightening.  The ice is like a barrier between the living and dead. The repetition of ‘nothing’ highlights ‘the end’ |