

An aerial photograph of a large body of water, likely Lake Michigan, during sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and purple. The water reflects these colors. In the foreground, there is a snowy shoreline with some buildings and trees. The overall mood is serene and nostalgic.

My Lake

By Aurelia J. Schultz

As we flew over Lake Michigan, a tear slipped from the corner of my eye. I was so happy. Though miles away, seeing the lake made me feel close to home.

This wide shimmering body of blue is part of me.

It ripples on, beats against the shores, rages on the breakwaters and laps onto the sands. This lake that I have enjoyed from every side, climbing dunes in Indiana, sitting on beaches in Michigan, walking along cliffs in Wisconsin and gazing at hungrily from a plane leaving Illinois.

This lake that filled my marching band days with the smell of dead fish, that kept us ten degrees cooler than the next county over, that brought us delightfully heavy snow perfect for snowmen.

This lake that gave me beautiful sunrises, the red ball reflecting below, yellow rays streaking out, a mirror of water and sky both purple at the edges, a glow of pink slowly lightening into a bright clear day.

How much of this lake have I drunk, swam in, bathed in, played in!

Yes, this lake is truly great. It is my Great Lake.