

Trap

SUSAN JOHNSON

A loud snap, a mouse half-trapped
one leg caught, one free, still leaping
as they do when tracked through
tall grass by cats who like to bring
live mice inside to watch them run
(such fun). Not failing cat school
so much as rewriting the rules.
No mouse in the house we tell them
but they are quicker than us and so too
of course are the mice. If I knew
mouse-speak I'd explain: "Let me
catch you and I'll set you free."
But why would the mouse believe
me? I who set the trap, who am
trapped, who brought home
these cats for their small warmth
on cold nights just like this.