**This is How** **the Wabanaki Fish**

By Sam Jungbluth

My tribe and I check the fish traps; there is nothing.

Near rocks, I see movement and stab my spear into the water.

When the sand clears, the fish is long gone.

My father says I can get one next time.

He teaches me how to fish for sturgeon.

**This is how we fish.**

On the hunt, our canoe screams in pain as it scrapes the rocks.

My father lets me use the sturdy harpoon while I’m in the bow.

I motion for him to stop and I strike my harpoon in the water.

I pull it up and see a sturgeon wildly thrashing on the point.

Father praises me on my catch and we keep fishing.

**This is how we fish.**

We also checked the eel traps, but we had no luck.

I lure an eel out from the rocks to get it closer to the trap.

The rapid current helps to push it swiftly in.

We thank the many spirits for the eel we caught.

**This is how we fish.**

We bring the catch back for the tying and drying.

Tomorrow we must go to set our nets at the salmon run.

We will head to place a net in front of a raging waterfall.

The fish will wildly jump over and into the net.

We will spear the fish one by one and have a delightful feast.

**This is how we fish.**

