

SUSAN MERNIT

Swimming Lesson

Close your eyes and lie back,
lean into the water till it cushions you,
an arc of skin just floating
in water you displace.

Spread your body wide
in the rhythm of the lake,
relax your spine softly
like a fish or mermaid.

Know the lake is gentle.
Like sun, it can receive you
but never show
how you join together,

how weightless you can be at its heart.

lap lap lap sings the water
to the air it breathes,
wave and warm currents
crowding the shore.

lap lap lap
your hands paddle,
floating.