

## Snowdrop

Soft white ridges:  
Like a ploughed field  
Smothered in snow;  
Like the trace of a spoon  
Carving into creamy yoghurt;  
Like paths of skiers  
Sliding down snowy slopes,  
As they taper to a gentle point.  
Petals, like panels  
On a tutu from swan lake,  
Enclose a pretty petticoat,  
Flashing lime green within.  
Sheltering and maternal  
It guides the way:  
A bright lantern for the ants below,  
A spotlight shining on the snow,  
A feminine purity,  
Rising up. A pioneer  
Of female struggle.  
Of female success.  
Of female spirit.