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Fisher Girl from Picardy

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Class of 2010

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Author Bio

Marianne Amelia Florentino Jimenez is a member of the class of 2010. She was born and raised in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and her first language is Spanish. The big-eyed Latina is planning to major in English and Theater. After graduation, Marianne plans to do all sorts of theatre activities. You can find her in the conservatory, literally trying to find her own voice.

Fisher Girl from Picardy

(based on a painting of the same name by Elizabeth Nourse)

At the top of that hill
where the wind can hurl them down,
they hold hands and stand next to each other.

Under that big white sky full of spirit
stand a girl and a boy from Picardy.
The color of their skin show the hours spent in the sun.

There is a smell of salt in the wind...
That smell of salt in their hair, deep in their skin,
is the mark of living by the sea.

She carries her fishing nets and an empty basket
and does not shift under their weight.
She stands straight looking towards the sea of promises,
like an old lighthouse, firm and hopeful.
Her little brother protects his eyes
from that fierceness of the ocean,
from the sun that bites,
and from the spicy salt in the air.

Their faces are solemn and thoughtful
while they think about the hours they will have to spend
working with the nets
and prepare themselves to touch the burning sand.

They will catch enough fish for the family,
no more, no less.
And then, the children will play in the water.