

Cuyahoga
County
Public
Library

By Ray McNiece

CLEVELAND WINTER

Cleveland Flats look brighter in winter
when the sun blares full force
over sooty snow making rust glow
above post-apocalypse postcard.

The doldrums have given way today
to blue sky contrasting Lake Erie ice
out to the Crib, around Whiskey Island,
back to three skyscrapers like silver

teeth sticking out of the cold, grey skull
of dead industrial Rockefeller giant.
This world freezes faster than it thaws
and burns more quickly than it grows.

Today Cleveland stands out clearly
as if it will not all melt away someday.