

Fireflies

Light

Night

is our parchment

fireflies

flitting

fireflies

glimmering

glowing

Insect calligraphers

practicing penmanship

Six-legged scribblers

of vanishing messages,

Fine artists in flight

adding dabs of light

Signing the June nights

as if they were paintings

flickering

fireflies

fireflies.

Light

is the ink we use

Night

We're

fireflies

flickering

flashing

fireflies

gleaming

Insect calligraphers

copying sentences

Six-legged scribblers

fleeting graffiti

Fine artists in flight

bright brush strokes

Signing the June nights

as if they were paintings

We're

fireflies

flickering

fireflies.

from Paul Fleischman, *JOYFUL*

NOISE: Poems in Two Voices