

## LIKE CAPTURED FIREFLIES

John Steinbeck

In her class our speculation  
ranged the world;  
She aroused us to book  
waving discussions.

Every morning we came to her 5  
carrying new truths,  
new facts,  
new ideas - -  
Cupped and sheltered in our hand  
like captured fireflies. 10

When she went away, a sadness came over us –  
but the light did not go out.

She left her signature upon us –  
the literature of the teacher  
who writes on children's minds. 15

I've had many teachers who taught me  
soon forgotten things –  
But only a few like her –  
Who created in me a new thing,  
a new attitude, 20  
a new hunger.

I suppose to a large extent,  
I am the unsigned manuscript of that teacher.

What deathless power lies in the hands  
of such a person. 25

More like this. Captured Fireflies. 5. 0.