

## Two Great Lakes

by Patricia Williams

Of five Great Lakes glacier-formed in the last ice age,  
two contour Wisconsin's margins:

Superior, surface size of South Carolina,  
*gichigami* or 'great sea' to Ojibwa population;  
Michigan, sole one among the Greats  
not shared with northern neighbors,  
area somewhat less than West Virginia.

Wave-washed beaches, lofty bluffs,  
dunes and birch-filled shorelines, coast home  
to slipper orchids; far side too distant to see.  
Jade-like chain of island jewels, yellow perch,  
and bankside grasses, alive in liquid crystal;

inland seas with shifting moods and awful power;  
untold ships consumed.