

# WISDOM

JIM DANIELS

Our parents gave us no nuggets  
of wisdom or dog shit or gold.

No nuggets at all. Rough stones  
to worry into smoothness.

Five kids. Their only advice:  
don't have five kids.

We took that advice  
and ran away from home

with it. Our pockets  
filled with rocks, we jumped

into the lake. Lake Huron,  
Too cold to drown in.

We jettisoned our rocks  
and slogged back to shore.

Our parents waited on shore  
with cold wet towels

and rubbed us vigorously  
until despite all logic

we caught fire.