

Variations on a Theme

November Poinsettia

-1- Prose paragraph

A sprig of poinsettia left in a grocery cart, spread on the black flap used for small items toddler seat or purse. Detached from plant the stray sprig looks like an opened heart. Crinkled in cold fog. I leave it and go inside the store with another cart. The burst of red can brighten another shopper. When I return, a man crams the carts into a row to take inside. I rescue the bloom and take it home to warm and wither before Thanksgiving.

-2- Haiku

poinsettia sprig left
in grocery cart, an opened heart
to warm cold fog

-3- Fib

Piece of Poinsettia

Red
bloom
out of
season. sprig
poinsettia
left in grocery cart to die.

Left
cold
in fog
sprig brightens
gray surroundings, so
I leave it to cheer some others.

-4- Free Verse

Pointing Out Poinsettia

A splash of red
in a grocery cart
splayed like an opened heart
bleeding red on green leaves.

A spill of red on metal cart
in cold fog warms me,
makes me smile.
I take another cart
so crinkled bloom can brighten others.

With cart-ful of goods
I return to my car,
spy a man cramming carts
to compact a row to push inside.
I retrieve the endangered sprig
and carry it home
in my front seat.

In a blue glass
I hope to ease wrinkles,
place the bloom on the table.
It will wither
before Thanksgiving.

-5- Cinquain

Poinsettia in November

Red bloom
detached from plant
cast in grocery cart
left to shrivel, shiver alone
on cold.

Red sprig
splays on green leaves
tainted like red paint waits
for welcoming hand to claim it,
bring home.

Variations on a Theme

1. Write a prose paragraph and focus on an incident.
2. Chose several other poetry forms to write about it as well.
3. Title each section and have an overall title.
4. You can choose the variations.