

Juggling Quatrains and Quintains

Chilling Drive to Crater Lake in June

On her 17th birthday, third week on permit
after off-key chorus of happy birthday, she drives.
Dad is “smart media” assistant and coach.
Grandparents backseat map-readers and critics.

Her arctic air-conditioning flares sun-reddened hair.
Passengers don coats and chatter.
Her aunt texts LOL which grandma thinks
means lots of love or luck .

She negotiates mountainous curves and freeway,
road construction monitored by flaggers and lights,
swims with road-whales and curses
tail-gaters and passers swishing on scenic by-ways.

Music helps her focus. Driving suggestions annoy.
At the park entrance her I-Phone play-list blares
girl girl girl girl yeah yeah yeah yeah-- yeah yeah yeah yeah girl girl girl girl
At caldera’s viewpoints she holds “meetings” on her cell.
Stops hold photo ops for her family’s “volcanic legacy”.

East-side snowbound. West-side snow-banks higher than the car.
Contrail scars blue sky reflected in pure blue lake.
Snow-capped mountains feather the water’s rim---.
the deepest U.S. lake with remnant Wizard Island.

A place of power. A place of tribal rituals and vision quests.
A place for midge flies to lay eggs on the water’s surface,
Eggs drop nearly 2000 feet, larvae feed on bottom bio-matts,
mature to pupae, wriggle and float to the surface as adults and fly.

She has warmed and reduced air-conditioning.
Returning home she commands silence, chills
directional disagreements. “Dad you always have to look for me
and I can do it myself.” She drives unfamiliar back roads home.

GPS glitch loops them through Glide and Colliding Rivers.
Back on track, discussions resume. Justin Bieber booms
Girl, I’m in love with the thought of. I’m in love with the thought of you, girl.
Grandma thinks he sings: Girl, I’m in love with your daughter.
Dad creates a cell video of the debate en route.

A flagger with a stuffed monkey clutching the stop sign
wishes her agnates Happy Fathers Day weekend
before the pilot car guides her across a bridge.
She wonders why flagger did not greet female side of car.

The family celebrates at supper at Steamboat Springs.
then a traditional ice cream stop at Rice Hill. Quietly
they ride, drinking Smart Water in warm setting sun.
Tomorrow she will drive her Dad to the airport.

She will board a plane for California
to visit her mother with a shift car to practice.
In a few months she'll leave for college.
Like the midge fly, she's driven to flight.

Juggling Quatrains and Quintains:

1. Experiment similar to Balancing Quatrains.
2. This variation has the pattern: 3 quatrains, 1 quintain, 3 quatrains, 1 quintain and 3 quatrains.
3. Quintains have the middle balance, chiasmus line which reverses.