

Triplets

Veteran's Day 11-11-11

Dangling from dewy, empty mailbox
a snaring spider web etches sky,
semi-camouflaged in fog.

No mail delivery to disturb this web.
The mailbox bordered between
sidewalk and street is shut tight.

In the street grandson and grandpa
wearing woolen caps, toss a hard rubber football,
run on wet asphalt.

On the sidewalk cheerleader grandma
seated in a red camp chair, huddles in a furled
red cape like a bullfighter's before the fight.

Grandson played eighth grade football
but ended that battlefield after one season
to his grandma's great relief.

Grandpa, a soccer player, non-combat
Vietnam War ROTC vet practiced battle yet left
the Army for graduate school before deployment.

Now grandson and grandpa prefer basketball,
play catch with baseballs and footballs
on less violent fields of action.

Grandson throws football to grandma.
Her fingers sting and hurt in the attempt to catch.
Guys went to get a softer ultimate composite football.

At noon all go woman's basketball game.
At night all go to women's volleyball game.
Youthful grandma could not play most sports or go to war.

Veterans on many different fields
play their games by often other's rules.
Grandma prefers non-violent fields and peace marches.

Fragile web clings to catch sustenance.
Gently windblown, web will unravel soon.
Now grasping guardian glistens in autumnal sun.

Triplets:

1. Three-line stanzas. Also called tercets, tristitch.
2. Can be rhymed or unrhymed.
3. Can stand alone or be building blocks for longer poems. Very versatile like couplets, quatrains and cinquains.
4. This example is unrhymed triplets.