

## Final Project I Submission: Final Poetry Collection

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For my final poetry collection, I began by placing my poems in the order of new life, beginning with the birth of my son in, "A Long-Awaited Arrival." As life unfortunately ends, I followed my first poem with poems about the end of life, "Onward," "Embrace," "Cross," and a tribute to my grandmother, "Tootsie." My poems that encompassed the themes of life and death came to a close, so I decided to follow them with poems that were more somber and focused on Covid in, "Cursed-19," and my sister going away to college in, "Never Be the Same." Ending my poetry collection on an uplifting note, "Freddy Day" is a seriously happy poem about the day we picked up our first puppy as a family. As I did a massive revision of my poems that reflect the feedback of my peers and instructor, I hope that they encompass the elements required and are enjoyable to read.

## **A Long-Awaited Arrival**

(Long Free Verse)

The day had come, the pain was searing, stabbing, being gutted like a fish.  
Your heart rate kept dropping. The beep, beep.....beep of the monitor slowing.  
They moved me, left to right, sit up, walk, lay. Just like a dog.  
You would not make your appearance. You were helplessly stuck like a mouse in a trap.  
50 bpm. 20 people came tearing in, no time for hellos.  
Pushing me down the hall in a running panic like a herd of cattle, calling for your Daddy.  
Spinal, prick, panic, flip back, curtain up.  
A flip and a flop, my body like a fish out of water.  
Bloody bags, rags, and glistening organs out in the open.  
“One, two, three, four, five!” the doctors shouted, as they unraveled the cord from your neck.  
You gave your battle cry. We sobbed our surrender.

**Onward**

(Short Free Verse)

Why did you

go?

I was not

ready

You were sick

No!

I couldn't leave you

there

So, we moved you

home

To a lavish room, not plain, white

walls

No more, beeping monitors and

I.V.'s

Where biscuits and gravy are

plentiful

The smell of flowers, not

disinfectants

Where we could wrap you up in a warm and fuzzy

blanket

And family came to be with

you

You spoke to ones already

passed

We knew it wouldn't be

long

We were right there holding your

hand

You took your final

breath

And you soared onto

Heaven

## **Embrace**

(Prose)

Even in death, you visit my longing heart.

Dream heavy limbs, swallowing my feet as I move toward you.

You gaze at me, our vision blurs with crocodile tears.

I feel the tender warmth of your embrace.

Your words like a light, feathery cloud, whispered close to my ear.

“I wish it could always be this way,” you say.

Jolted awake, your love radiates around me like a thousand suns.

## Cross

(short free verse)

The splintered cross, heavy  
as a thousand hells.

Sharp nails plunged through  
flesh, into the fragmented wood.

Cries of agony ring out,  
“Father why have you forsaken me?”

## **Tootsie**

(Sonnet)

Who's got the finest jewels in all the land?

How they twinkle and sparkle to and fro.

Why Tootsie does, look at her dainty hand.

Look at them placed precisely in a row.

Bracelets, earrings, necklaces, rings galore.

Green emeralds, cushion cuts, grandeur in size.

Gramps was always ready to buy her more.

Each one special, like a precious prize.

Her grandgirls, giddy to try them all on.

No care was given for their hefty price.

We will hold them dear, even when she's gone.

A gift of love is what they symbolize.

A grandma is a blessed encounter.

I will wear my trinkets in Tootsie's honor.



## **Cursed-19**

(Lyric Poem)

Sound the blaring alarm, ring the chilling bell!  
A destructive force created in the bowels of hell.  
This virus that has upended our lives,  
should be damned to Hades like killer beehives.  
Masks and distancing have sheltered all,  
and before our government, shall fall.  
Vaccines will save, just get the prick,  
will it pillage through my wary veins of thick?  
Steal through my dark and powerless rage,  
confined like a canary in a cage.  
What will it take J. Biden?  
Soon the masses will be dyin.'

## **Never Be the Same**

(Villanelle)

I have no fondness in saying farewell.

The equivocal decision was made,

life will languish on.

A sister's choice to leave,

a sister's heart shatters like thin glass,

I have no fondness in saying farewell.

A delightful and drawn-out drive,

filled with reminiscent reflections.

Life will languish on.

Belongings were quietly unpacked,

her room set up in a rush, like the streets of the city.

I have no fondness in saying farewell.

There is no turning back,

we embrace like a snake constricting its prey.

Life will languish on.

She turns one last time to give a hurried wave,

and a piece of my heart stays locked with hers.

I have no fondness in saying farewell.

MY life will languish on.

## **Freddy Day**

(Narrative Poem-Free Verse)

The day had finally come!

We were getting our first puppy and bringing him home.

“When are we leaving?” the kids kept pestering, chests heaving.

As we made the two-hour, bumpy, Michigan road trek  
to pick up our furball, our heads were spinning with names.

Kayley whined, “I want to name him pizza train.”

I mulled over the name Maverick, and

Wyatt said, “How about Freddy?”

Dad shouted, “Sturgill!”

After a much heated debate, we decided on Freddy.

When we arrived, we were buzzing with anticipation.

The owner took us into a large, beige building  
and then into yet another smaller space,  
the smell of dogs and cleaning chemicals consumed the air.

From there she brought in four wriggling and chubby pups.

She asked, “Well, which one will it be?” as she eyed us curiously.

One of the puppies was yowling and causing a kerfuffle.

So, we decided maybe he was a little too much trouble.

Then we held two that looked identical, calmer,  
and almost white in color; there soft fur-like butter.

We made our choice, I could almost cry,  
as we admired him and held him high.

The drive home was peaceful as I snuggled him,  
and breathed in his pleasant puppy breath.

Many were the jealous stares from the others in the car.

What a memorable day for us and Freddy, by far!