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HUM 120H

Dr. Osherow and Dr. Suri

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### **Set Poetry**

Constraints: Each line is a set of words. Each set contains all of the words in the first line, or at least a variation of those words. The last word of the first line is the last word of every line. The poem's title cannot appear in the poem.

Example:

No

That little word...

I wish I could say it. I wish I could scatter it everywhere small enough that only my hands could fit into  
and draw comfort from something as little as a word.

Stacking this letter on that letter until I have a little fortress filled with words;

I want to create a shield with that little two-lettered word.

A shield strong enough that I can protect myself from those who will inadvertently harm me, but that  
doesn't work with just a little word.

But I have to find that little spark of fire that incinerates those who do not listen to this word.

They hear what I say when it cooperates with their desires, and what little they see does not include  
that word -

Unfortunate for my meek voice, that such a large force cannot be associated with such a trivial thing,  
my feelings in that word.

I said it once, that little word

That resonated deep and strong, cracking my aggressor's resolve, little by little, until it was nothing but  
words

Facing me with little chance of winning using that strategy of only words

All I have to do is turn my mouth into a machine gun shooting rapid-fire nothing but that little word

But I won't. That would take more fortitude than I'll ever say I have with little words.

### **Oulipian Form: Snowball**

Eulogy for Green

Crunch  
Colors,  
Fading out  
Piles of red,  
Dead and dying leaves.  
In orange, brown, yellow  
As greenness fades and falls, fall  
Arrives. Whistling of cold to come,  
Carrying life in a windy hearse  
To the ground - a grave for burning color -  
With birdsong . From peace, to peace, and in changing:  
Growing colder, changing color, getting older.

