

### Candle in the Window

By John Pinney

She lit the candle,  
Placing it in the window.  
The reflection flickering in bitter cold  
On such a winter night.

Deep snow made roads impassable  
Silence all around, save for  
Occasional tufts of snow  
falling from the rooftop.  
The scent of bubbling coffee in the air.

Twenty-six years ago today,  
The flame sparked meekly.  
Sweat deep on her brow – a charm  
The nurse did declare to ward evil away.

Several years that little flame  
Kept the house from becoming a bitter  
Ice box or death trap,  
But that was many seasons ago.

Wrapped in a gingham robe – warm and soft  
She remembers how he sighed.  
“Aw-geez, do we have to do this every year?”  
She would watch him exclaim.

In her heart, she kept silent the why  
Today, she watches the candle  
flicker to nothingness  
Watches the reflection  
of the snowy deep outside the window.  
For now his flame has no one  
to protect from evil.

### True Love

By Dennis Kenneth Rollins

Two birds that fly so high,  
True love in the sky.  
Virtue is a strong meaning that is spoken  
And is sometimes sung.

It is two hearts that hang onto time:  
An hour past seven means we're almost to heaven  
Two ounces of love is like two pieces of pie.  
But in the end,  
We will always know  
True love given is true love accepted.

### Fear

By Avendor

I hung out with fear  
As if she was the love of my life.  
But she beat the heaven out of me,  
And she wasn't very nice.  
And, you know,  
She comes around every now and then,  
And I say I still care about you.  
But I won't try to save you again.

### Rain

By Chris Kunzler

Rain rolls down my face  
Streets flood with anonymous tears  
Memories faded, darkened space  
Voices of passing cars too near  
Feet blistered in pain  
Must I keep moving through this rain



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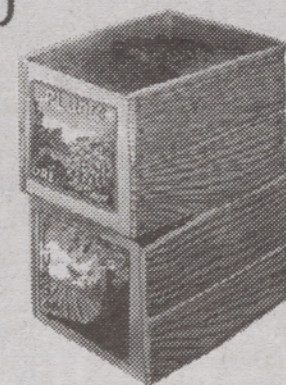
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