

A LESSON IN THE LEAVES

Francine L. Trevens

They emerge, yellow with timidity
Little shoots testing temperature in their proximity.

Assured of Spring dominion's truth
Tentatively unfurl, pallid green not from jealousy, but youth.

They grow, lengthen, widen, splay
Their veins bulging life through rainy April, nourishing May

Well fed, sun-warmed and content
Through hot simmering summer color deepens, grown confident.

Their hold on branch of life tightens
So they withstand sudden gusts as Autumn's imminence heightens

Sending them into spirals of glee
Whispering their dreams while upon the winds they ski

T-barred to their branches.
Their brilliant colors varied as multi-fabric avalanches.

From twig that sustained them there
With childish joy they let go to whirl and twirl devil-may-care

Flying weightless, they tumble then soar
As they always dreamed they'd do tasting life fully before

Falling, exhaustedly to earth.
They get raked into intimate heaps upon the land which gave them birth

Set ablaze, their spirits free
To rise as smoke higher than any tree could dream to be

A few scared ones cling like old laundry, gray
To the weary branch. They sere and die dropping lifeless to a ground duller than they.

Poor fools. All come to the same end
Why not choose the world to explore
Take risks, and dare to soar before succumbing to nevermore?

“A Lesson in the Leaves” © 2007 by Francine L. Trevens

Contemporary Rhyme Vol. 4 No. 3 2007