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What if a much of a which of a what

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What if a much of a which of a what

By: Emily Bordley

Ms. May said poetry could be written any such way –
long, with personification dominating and alliteration amiably ambling amongst
adverbs,
or short.

She said I could space it any way I want
and Throw around Capitalization
like Mr. Cummings Probably would Prefer.

Perhaps I'll use perfect pentameter
Maybe iambs 'cause Shakespeare would approve.
Rhyming couplets sound appealing
if that's what I happen to be feeling.
Slant rhymes are not easily read,
but they help me out when I'm in need.

Sitting at my plain blue chair in the dusty ol' dorm room,
I bring this poem back down to earth
to a dull reality with due dates and over-due dates,
I write 15 new poems for my EN 301 midterm.
I haven't seen Ms. May in years –
she got married, so she's neither Ms. Nor May –
and her words are but a faded ink smear in my memory.

Still, my pesky lines persist and spread
like a "tiny" crack on a windshield.
Dr. Bilgere wants physical words
about 1 am Star Wars movie nights
with Lilian, my roomie,
and Laura, my illegitimate roomie.
But the icy iron bars of grades and rules
cannot contain my melodic, chaotic thoughts.

So I still write with abstractions, gimmicks,
and jokes when I can.
Like a naughty toddler refusing to obey her father,
my poetry is spoiled, impetuous, and stubborn,
But I blame Ms. May.
What if a much of a which of a whatever I want.