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## Forest of a Thousand Pencils

Mardelle Fortier  
*College of DuPage*

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## FOREST OF A THOUSAND PENCILS

I wait by a deserted library  
closed for the holidays. Snow  
whispers down and I am locked from

the big woods of books, the land  
built from numerous pencils,  
and countless dreams. Now and then  
in a shadowy shelf, one can  
bump into a castle, or a flight  
to a villa in Italy, or shadowy disguise  
of a black robe.

Windows loom dark, and the illusions  
rest. Will they come out tomorrow  
into an ordinary world  
of paychecks, sponges, debts?

If I could go in and wander  
to the far North, would I find  
trolls, towers, teases, ghosts,  
gnomes, knives, knaves

in the vast, ever-changing  
kaleidoscopic, labyrinthine  
Forest of a thousand pencils?