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## Autumn

Caroline Johnson  
*College of DuPage*

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# Autumn

Caroline Johnson

Standing in a river of fire,  
 swept in a swirl of swollen maples  
 now breathing in October's late  
 afternoon fashion show  
 like a lazy city tramp who has  
 lost his way and is  
 rustling in the leaves,  
 touching wicker bark and  
 wet, dark branches  
 like an operetta symposium,  
 it sings to us,  
 in shocking silence of golds, burghandies  
 with flames that leap towards quiet stillness.

Mauves and hydrangeas  
 and paint-by-number canvas  
 with soft brushstrokes someone has  
 fingerprinted happiness  
 and scattered the dreams of sunflowers  
 across Van Gogh's sky, leaving  
 lime green speckled bushes, baby pine,  
 dead logs, and deer that stop for the moment.

*"You see this tree here?" he said.*

*"When we come back here again, it won't be the same."*