

Winning Poems in 2020 CFCP, Inc., Annual Contest

3. Any Subject, Any Style, First Place

The Thing Is: It Takes as Long as It Takes

in his first grieving
he pivots to poetry
to tell his pain

in his second grieving
he wears black in the daytime
to tell the Sun, "No"

in his third grieving
he wears white at nighttime
to tell the Moon, "Me, too"

in his fourth grieving
he steps outside naked
to tell the rain, "Both of us"

in his fifth grieving
he turns the radio knob
to cut out the static

in his sixth grieving
he asks for a kiss
to lure her back

in his seventh grieving
he finally tells it
to give it a rest

Neal Whitman
Pacific Grove, CA