

Winning Poems in 2021 CFCP, Inc., Annual Contest

4. Light or Humorous, Second Place

**My California Bucket List**

Pardon me for what I'm about to say  
But I really must lose my way to *San Jose*  
Or find an elk and then a grove in *Elk Grove*  
Discover those original thousand stumps  
In *Thousand Oaks* or find any one oak in *Oakland*  
Failing that— I could swing on a vine in *Tarzana*  
O sure I could eat an orange in *Orange County*  
Or purchase a sack o' tomatoes in *Sacramento*  
Hunt hieroglyphics in *Niles* be rich in *Richmond*  
Gulp a cold cerveza or inhale a virus in *Corona*  
Ask how does your garden grow in *Garden Grove*  
Wonder why there are fewer parks in *Moorpark*  
Look for lost angels in *Los Angeles* only to  
Find them stiff and cold and damp in *Angels Camp*  
Gather cakes growing on vines in *Bakersfield*  
Find a key that can open any Schlage in *Turlock*  
Refuse to sell bankrupt stocks to the *Stockton* poor  
Survey and appraise a field's value in *Fairfield*  
I could befriend a female singer in *Palo Alto*  
Or visit Stan and Elmo in *San Anselmo*  
I could ask what is a "Hurst" in *Oakhurst*  
Sew something in *Needles* be a fool in *Cool*  
Say "Yes" a hundred times in *Fresno* play cards  
In *Red Bluff* or find my place in *Placerville*—  
On second thought however I'll stay put right here  
And eat some bologna in *Wawona*

Daniel Williams  
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