

Winning Poems in 2022 CFCP, Inc., Annual Contest

4. Light or Humorous, Second Place

**Shopping in the Millennial Grocery**

Clever grocers are busy putting faces of plenty  
on their pitiful empty shelves by stocking  
cardboard representations and photos of food  
a futile effort to mask ever growing bare spots

How good that fresh corn looks  
and that pyramid of Campbell's soup  
just wonder at all those loaves of bread  
wrapped in white with colorful balloons

Who needs bees primary producers and an  
effective supply chain when you might lithograph  
every human need in bright life-like colors  
on box board price them and stack them high

Just think how much lighter your grocery bag  
will be when carrying everything home  
and look at the space you'll save  
stacking it all in your pantry

Just think how much cholesterol you'll avoid  
how little salt and sugar and trans fats  
your doctor will be amazed at your triglycerides  
but most of all just think of all that soluble fiber

No matter your palette's longing or appetite  
twinkies and saltines banana pudding and sardines  
peaches pears no matter its name its color  
its size or consistency everything tastes the same

At check-out as bar codes on your items are  
scanned by a young lady named Lisa  
you reach into your *papier-maché* wallet  
and whip out a make believe cardboard Visa

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