

Taken from "Random Autobiography" by Mary Ann Larson

I was the expected

Valentine
that arrived
before **I learned** early
that red socks
are warmest.

I've held a tarantula
in my hand
and felt the chill,
the tiny hairs.

Panned for gold
at Garnet, Montana,
a ghost town.
No luck.

I've heard thunder
in the depths
of a snowstorm.

I lost my
first love
and my pet
canary, Pierre,
all in one day.

I've held
a stunned finch
in my hand,
regaining his senses
after flying into
the front window.

I once kissed
an anarchist.

I once suffered
pneumonia.
And only once
ate a whole
raw onion
on a dare.

Twice, I lost
my baby bracelet,
dainty gold chain,
miniature pearls and
little hearts of gold.
And twice

I've driven through

Gilroy, California,
the garlic capital
of the world.
We hopscotched
until chalk lines
scuffed and faded.
I have landed
more big fish
than most men
can say
got away.

Just a toddler,
I toddled
toward a cliff
but **was saved** by
ruffled panties
that Dad grabbed.
Aurora Borealis
has played for me
more often than
I deserve.

I have shopped
at K Mart.
My silver baby cup
is all banged up.

I once screamed at
my boss
in anger.
I've been scared
by bears
in the basement.
I have stored
Small treasures
in a cigar box,
and flown
kites in April.

I tell you sincerely;
Gary, Indiana
is an eyesore
from a charter bus.
And **I have**
been cruel...

Let the following prompts guide you. They are mere suggestions, so use all, some, or none. Play with order, repetition. There is no right or wrong here, but your poem should be a minimum of twenty lines.

I was the expected...

I've learned...

I've held...

I've heard...

I lost...

I once...

I once suffered...

Twice...

I've driven through...

Was saved...

I deserve...

I have shopped...

I once screamed...

I've been scared...

I have stored...

I tell you sincerely...

I have been cruel...