•

see; that last

lovely tree

as a poem

summersweet

•

gather the green snow

wear flags for her

she has

that made

lain

a leafy with

upon

•

never

among fools

•

who only

she lives

nest in i

by flowing her

•

hungry

hair

lifts her mouth

to the pressured rain

•

can a day

clasped within

arms of earth

think? intimately

as that

shall

robins

pray

[see; that last lovely tree] incorporates words from "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer (1913). About the poem and the process of composing it, K Roberts writes:

> Kilmer speaks about his appreciation of nature's beauty. In my response to Kilmer's poem, I wanted to acknowledge the problems of environmental damage and our loss of connection to nature. The concept I began with was to create a shape poem, a visual presentation that would support the theme. Word-cloud mapping software was useful during the early drafts. The software poured a copy of Kilmer's text into a design outline, filling the tree shape with letters the way water fills a vase. Program settings made it possible to weight the priority of words and change font sizes. These choices caused groupings to shift, as the words swirled inside the outline. When meaningful fragments emerged, these were typed into MS Word and edited into stanzas. The final version is a wire frame; the vase has been emptied of its water, and the poem is a silhouette of an absent tree. Adding dots as stanza spacers was the finishing step. The dots imply the dying tree's falling leaves, its last season of bearing fruit.

K Roberts' work has appeared in *Decolonial Passage*, the anthologies *Disasters of War* and *Brought to Sight & Swept Away*, and elsewhere. They also serve as a first reader for *NUNUM*.