

“Collections of Nothing” Prompt

—read [*Collections of Nothing*](#) by William Davies King

Prep:

—Make a catalog of your collections: everything, digital, analog, everything

—If you have no such thing you might describe as a collection, make lists of everything you’ve thrown away (perhaps it’s a catalog of the things you’ve thrown away one day, or a weekend)

—create descriptive titles for each collection, ie “57 pots of eyeshadow I refuse to give away” or “news clippings I meant to read on my phone” etc

—organize them according to value, and by value, *importance as defined by you*

—Create a will/gift list: who will get what? Imagine that you must give, each collection, everything, everything away. Who will get what? The divisions can be particular.

Write:

—in your first stanza, take one of your collections and without telling us the title or the contents in the collection, describe the events + memories associated with this set (write this in the first person)

—2nd stanza: describe your memories of the person you’re giving/gifting this set to. Be as descriptive, detailed and searing as possible (write this in the 3rd person)

—3rd stanza: write a list of instructions on how to take care of, grow, or destroy this set (write this in the 2nd person)

—4th stanza: describe each item in full, exhausting, detail. But do not give us their names.

Perhaps your poem follows the stanza order as instructed here, perhaps they are re-arranged

Write a poem for at least two sets within your collection