

Jinitshi

Picking Holly Carefully

Outside our front door two holly trees—
one variegated and one plain await clipping.

Clusters of red berries with sharp green leaves
fall into my brown paper bag.

Holly will decorate our holiday tables
amid candles and small Christmas figures.

In Newtown make-shift memorials hold candles and gifts.
In Newtown holly berries resemble little drops of blood.

Jinitshi is a Chinese Form. Du Fu was a master of the form.

1. Eight lines.
2. Four couplets.
3. Write on a variety of themes and topics.