

## Rispetto

### Harvesting

Peach tree hangs two peaches.  
Plum tree plummeted more.  
Apple tree outreaches  
dropping gobbets galore.

Squirrel climb for filberts.  
Perked cherries in spurts.  
Deer nibble from ripe lawn.  
Soon all our produce—gone.

### Skittering

Squirrels chitter filberts crop,  
skitter up hazelnut tree.  
There's no cat to make them stop,  
so they crack and crunch freely.

A gray squirrel big as cat  
would make most any cat scat.  
As for me with cranky knees—  
they can climb, eat as they please.

### Suffering

In a dark time of crushing thought  
when you can't see a light tunnel,  
hard to breathe, believe what life  
brought.  
and all hope runs through tight funnel,

don't waste time asking why—instead  
face the situation you dread,  
lift to let in light, inhale deep.  
decide what darkness you must keep.

### **Rispetto:**

1. Two stanzas of 4 lines. Italian form.
2. Choose syllable count for the lines of 6-10 syllables.  
First poem has 6-syllable lines.  
Second poem has 7-syllable lines.  
Third poem has 8 syllables.
3. Rhyme Scheme: a-b-a-b c-c-d-d