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How Do You Wrap a Poem?

Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor

A gift, this question from Pora's son
imagining a flat box or rolled paper

tied with ribbon. *Blueberes*
are blue/Stroberes/are red/

I love you, his said and Pora knew
he meant this present, no pretense

or abstraction, just tinkered
mimicry and slant intention. Pink

marker, the fruits capitalized, signature
style that will surely get imposed

with rhyme, r's doubled, exchanged
someday for gift receipts: knee high

socks, a watch ticking away, hand-built
candy dishes, a half-started loom.

Poetry's ink magnetized to the fridge
will fade beside new report cards, lists

of bananas, eggs, milk, and inside
the freezer door, the blueberries

picked last summer in Comer, Georgia.

Biographical Details of Poet:

Melisa Cahnmann-Taylor, Professor of Language and Literacy Education at the University of Georgia, is the author of *Imperfect Tense* (2016, Whitepoint Press), and three scholarly books in education. Winner of NEA "Big Read" Grants, the Beckman award for "Professors Who Inspire," and a Fulbright for nine-month study of adult Spanish language acquisition in Oaxaca Mexico, she's served for over ten years as poetry editor for *Anthropology & Humanism*, judging the ethnographic poetry competition. Her work has appeared in *Georgia Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Women's Quarterly Review*, *Cream City Review*, *Barrow Street*, and many other literary and scholarly homes. She posts at her blog <http://teachersactup.com>.