

Fire reference

I Am Offering this Poem

BY JIMMY SANTIAGO BACA

I am offering this poem to you,
since I have nothing else to give.
Keep it like a warm coat
when winter comes to cover you,
or like a pair of thick socks
the cold cannot bite through,

I love you,

I have nothing else to give you,
so it is a pot full of yellow corn
to warm your belly in winter,
it is a scarf for your head, to wear
over your hair, to tie up around your face,

I love you,

Keep it, treasure this as you would
if you were lost, needing direction,
in the wilderness life becomes when mature;
and in the corner of your drawer,
tucked away like a cabin or hogan
in dense trees, come knocking,
and I will answer, give you directions,
and let you warm yourself by this fire,
rest by this fire, and make you feel safe

I love you,

It's all I have to give,
and all anyone needs to live,
and to go on living inside,

when the world outside
no longer cares if you live or die;
remember,

I love you.

Jimmy Santiago Baca, "I Am Offering This Poem" from *Immigrants in Our Own Land and Selected Early Poems*. Copyright © 1990 by Jimmy Santiago Baca. Reprinted by permission of Jimmy Santiago Baca.

Source: *Immigrants in Our Own Land and Selected Early Poems* (New Directions Publishing Corporation, 1990)

Use poem on youtube read by jsb:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm7U9BtPXXM>

<https://www.insidescience.org/video/physics-fire>

Search – “Fire is what part of science” and videos will pop up