

## **As I Lay Dying on a Warm Summer's Day**

Waiting in the car wash line,  
Receipt in hand to claim his car,  
Michael watched attendants wipe  
The hood, the doors, and windshield,  
As I lay dying on a warm, summer's day.

Penny pushed her shopping cart  
Past frozen foods and dairy,  
Took a cake mix on impulse,  
Topped her cart with orange juice,  
As I, with taste buds nearly gone, lay dying.

John watched eager faces chant,  
"Pledge-allegiance-to-the-flag-  
'nited-States-of-'merica and-  
to-the- 'public-for-which-it-stands . . ."  
As I, with pain well masked, lay dying.

Separating darks from whites,  
Fresh'ning clothes with bright'ners,  
Making sure each load was full,  
Jane dialed the heat to gentle,  
As I lay dying on a warm, summer's day.

Gary laid the floor plan out  
and made the Great Room greater,  
planned palatial entryways,  
chose tile with matching colors,  
While I lament my family's pain and sorrow.

From the scrapbook of my life  
Come mem'ries' consolations.  
My life slowly disappears  
Like sand thru children's fingers,  
As I lay humming, "Jesus doeth all things well."

Shielded by my patchwork quilt,  
my heart clings to hope and life,  
in a war no one can win.  
My will concedes the battle,  
As I lie dying on a warm, summer's day.