

To Shan Gray, born 7.13.1970
From Kelly Ilseman, born 3.14.1976

I miss you like a field full of flowers
Like a million stars in the night sky
Like a thousand lit-up fireflies
And all the needles of each dark conifer
 outlining the deep blue of night
In this cityscape and all its people
You're the greatest sunshine, the heart warm soulshine
The love of my life-time.

June 3, 2019

I love you like a million stars in the night sky,
Like a thousand lit-up fireflies,
Like a field full of wildflowers
And the needles of each dark conifer
 Against the deep blue of night
Like the sun's gentle rays,
Like the sweet morning rain,
There's no measure for my love for you.
Just like the winds will be here long after I'm gone
And newly planted apple orchards will outlast me
The rolling ocean waves will continue to break at the shore
And sunlight will glint a trillion snowflake sparkles
My love for you will be in these forces of nature
On this enormous blue-green-gray swirling orb
You're the greatest sunshine, heart warm soulshine
Love of my life-time.
Four years is easy; you have my life.

My love for you is in the mint growing outside Colonel Sumner's community garden,
In the evergreens and magnolias at Laurelhurst
In the bloom of roses and gardenias in Portland's springtime
The drift we collected and burned at the ocean
 The smell of salt and woodfire, feeling of warm sand
It's in the sparkle of your eyes and the weathered love of your hands
It's in everything until long after we're gone,
the energy of the infusion of us will keep on.

June 9, 2019

inspired by:

Do Not Stand At My Grave And Weep

By Mary Elizabeth Frye

Do not stand at my grave and weep
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.

source:

<https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/do-not-stand-by-my-grave-and-weep-by-mary-elizabeth-frye>