



7-17-2023

Tangerines

Katlyn Stahly

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Recommended Citation

Stahly, Katlyn (2023) "Tangerines," *The Mall*: Vol. 7 , Article 24.

Retrieved from: <https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/the-mall/vol7/iss1/24>

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Tangerines

Kathyn Stahly

Standing in the green grass
In the front yard of my childhood home
My dad stood on top of the ladder
Which leaned against the tangerine tree
Centered in the middle of the yard
He reached up through the lush leaves of the tree
To pick the perfect tangerine
He held it in his hand at first
In order to carefully examine it
Checking for any discoloration
After deciding it was good
He would take it in one hand
And with a quick twist and hard pull
The tangerine came right off the branch
One by one
He tossed the tangerines down to my brother and I
We stood there with both feet planted in the ground
Gazing up to him with baseball mitts on
Ready to catch the falling fruits