



1984

## Five Colors

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### Recommended Citation

Bragg, Brian (1984) "Five Colors," *Calliope*: Vol. 1984 : Iss. 1 , Article 3.  
Available at: <http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/calliope/vol1984/iss1/3>

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## FIVE COLORS

Red is the color of the bricks  
that line my  
ancestors' graves,  
unmarked,  
on a wooded  
Vermont mountainside.

Blue is traffic roaring  
past the motel room  
at night,  
especially the  
mechanical screams  
of eighteen-wheelers.

Yellow is a new car  
in a coffin parking lot,  
marked with  
computer-generated  
death certificates.

Green is what an old man  
spits up before he dies.  
It is also a wool sweater  
in his closet.

Grey is the color of  
war photographs forever.

Brian Bragg