

**T**ough being me, darling and unsightly, harmless and fearsome, for I am a contradiction.

**H**ead of pinkish purple composite, for just one floret cannot sustain my majestic potentiality.

**I**s my stem prickly for a reason? Upright and rigid, for it encapsulates a bitter-sweet interior.

**S**pear-like bracts, lances covering my spine, for I need to defend myself as I open my leafy wings in an attempt to fly.

**T**o feel free in the summer breeze yet protected from winter howling winds, for mighty as I am, I can't really leave the ground.

**L**ook at me how I never really wither, for I dry but don't decay when going from fluffy to rough, hither and thither.

**L**eat me to benefit from my properties and I might conjure the flows; admire me from a safe distance and let my bravery and resilience remind you of your own.