

2005 Harold G. Henderson Haiku Contest Results

Judges: Francine Porad and Billie Wilson

Award Winner For the haiku:

1st Place (\$100) Francine Banwarth

child's wake
the weight
of rain

Judges' comments:

Harold G. Henderson wrote, "In a good haiku, every word is important." In precisely-chosen words, this poet describes the indescribable – the intense, overwhelming pain of a young child's death. While funerals and rain are often used together in poetry and prose, this is done so powerfully here, moving it well beyond the trite and obvious parallel of rain and tears. That second line – the weight – holds us there for a deeper understanding of all that has been lost. And all that must be borne from this day forward. This haiku carries the reader beyond this tiny grave to consider lost hopes and lost dreams. To ponder the state of the world, and to wonder if it will ever stop raining.

2nd Place (\$75) Jim Kacian

gunshot the length of the lake

Judges' comments:

It requires great skill to write a great one-liner in English -- to achieve juxtaposition, resonance, and meaning without the assistance of line breaks. This haiku grabs the reader on the very first word, creating a potent, breathless pause of shock, fear, and wondering. We do not know if it is hunting season, or whether some terrible human tragedy has occurred. We only know that the sound carried the length of the lake – a phrase that lends itself perfectly to the one-line format, as it stretches across the page. The reader's imagination is opened all the way up, giving us a splendid mystery condensed in six powerful words.

3rd Place (\$50) Rick Tarquinio

a stick caught
on the lip of the dam
winter's end

Judges' comments:

Can't you just feel the power of those rushing meltwaters pushing winter out of the way? That stick is there for only a moment, to catch the poet's eye – and ours. The dam beautifully symbolizes the pent-upness of cabin fever at winter's end. We are so ready for spring, and it's almost here. That stick will quickly be picked up in the inexorable rush toward spring, and so will we.

Honorable Mentions

(alphabetical by last name or pen name)

Francine Banwarth

summer stars...
the old violin goes
to the highest bidder

Kirsty Karkow

winter drags on...
I squeeze the last drops
from a teabag

Origa

distant thunder –
a titmouse gives one chirp
and falls silent

Bill Pauly

Alzheimer's birthday
each slice of the cake
takes part of her name

Marie Summers

March winds
a decade has passed
by your grave

The number and kind of honorable mention was at the discretion of the judges. The judges elected not to rank these.

**Congratulations to the winners and to the many outstanding entrants!
Winning selections and judges' comments will be printed in Frogpond and on the
HSA website:**

<http://www.hsa-haiku.org/res-hsa-contests.htm>

2005 Gerald Brady Senryu Contest Results

Judges: an'ya and Carlos Colon

Award
Winner For the senryu:

Judges' General Comments:

There were 458 valid entries in this year's contest. We selected our top 33 and 35 poems respectively, discussed these a while through e-mail, and ranked our top 10 poems, using a 50-point scale. Then there was more discussion back and forth about strengths and weaknesses of the 15 poems that made our rankings until we reduced the list to eight poems, which we ranked with a 70-point scale.

1st Place (\$100) Emily Romano

centerfold:
the model's navel
off-center

Judges' comments:

The first-place senryu is succinct and subtle. The juxtaposition between the word "centerfold" and "off-center" is a winner in itself, as well as the "off-center" placement of the third line. How playfully the writer points out the little imperfection of this body that is supposed to represent an exquisite example of womanhood.

2nd Place (\$75) Ron Moss

day moon
a fresh tattoo rises
out of her jeans

Judges' comments: A well-written senryu that is a little more mysterious than our award winner. The tattoo could be of anything, but perhaps a butterfly, since many teenagers choose butterflies to tattoo on the small of their backs. Yet, it may instead be on the person's stomach. We'll never know for sure. It is up to the reader to fill in the details. Interestingly, his senryu (like our first choice) is also about a woman's body.

3rd Place (\$50) Susan Antolin

Independence Day
I struggle to free myself
from a wet bathing suit

Judges' comments: And again, this third-place poem is about a woman and her body. A funny poem with a nice play on words that isn't too forced. It wasn't obvious to us at first, but this is a 5/7/5 senryu that fits into the format without being too tight a fit.

Honorable Mentions

1st Honorable Mention Ron Moss

fresh blueberries
a 'gothic' teenager
darkens her lips

Judges' comments: This senryu could very well have been written about ancient times when women darkened their lips with things such as berries. However, we assume the poem was written about a modern-day, young woman making a statement about herself and her generation.

2nd Honorable Mention (tie) Scott Mason

switchbacks---
five or six cub scouts
an octave higher

*Judges' comments:
We both liked this senryu, but interpreted it differently. Could be Cub Scouts climbing a switchback trail and the voices on the upper level are "an octave higher"?*

2nd Honorable Mention (tie) James Fowler

my father and I
paint the barn
compare wars

Judges' comments: A father and son are painting the barn, and all they have in common to talk about is 'war.' There's no humor in the poem, but it says much more and goes much deeper. In addition, the abruptness in lines 2 and 3 seem to mimic the awkwardness of the father-son relationship.

3rd Honorable Mention Evelyn H. Hermann

picnic
in the sun-dappled courtyard
my freckled banana

Judges' comments: A laugh-out-loud senryu, but just remember what Sigmund Freud almost said, "Sometimes a banana is just a banana." What more can be said about this one, except thanks to its author for the levity.

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