



Annual Selection 2024

Truths vs facts

Selections and comments by Dhugal J. Lindsay

As a research scientist, I am expected to write reports and papers on the facts discovered through my research and experimental observations, but there is a difference between "facts" and "truths." Sometimes you have a gut feeling that something is one way and not another. In science you would take this feeling and try to prove it was justified by testing and refuting, through experiments and observations. In haiku there are also times when you feel something has to be true, like some connection between the human perceptions of two entities in the natural world that seem at first completely unrelated. Many submitted haiku read like a shopping list, a factual account of some event or scene containing only facts and no truths. When the facts illuminate truths that can be conveyed through simple words, this is the ideal form of haiku. However, since our consciousness interprets facts, putting a filter on them, access to truths through the facts is dependent on consciousness. In other words, different readers might or might not glimpse truths through the same set of facts. Part of the art of a haiku poet is to select the facts such that the largest number of readers can access the truths the poet has glimpsed. This is the artisanship in haiku. Even if it was a crow that triggered your haiku moment, perhaps a blackbird would trigger that same moment in more poets. Carefully review your haiku to make sure that readers have the best chance to glimpse the truth you experienced, even if the actual scene was not exactly as you experienced. The following haiku, selected for the year of 2024, are grouped by author and sorted according to the publication date, with comments appended. Thank you to all our readers for your contributions.

Angelica Seithe (Wettenberg, Germany)

New Year's morning —
the bare trees
full of buds

Jan. 1, 2024

Comment: The sense of anticipation is conveyed well.

frosty spring —
on a washing line the pegs
are twittering

March 28, 2024

Comment: Are pegs making noise in the chilly breeze?
No, they are perching birds!

Nazarena Rampini (Milan, Italy)

almost Christmas
fog filled bagpipes
a little out of tune

Jan. 2, 2024

Comment: The second two lines are a haiku in themselves, but the hectic pre-Christmas dash also comes out well.

leafless tree
the neighbour greets me
from the window

Jan. 26, 2024

Comment: Now visible.

plum buds —
on the lowest branch
a small lost glove

March 30, 2024

Comment: "Buds" and a child match well.

no one knocks
at the old door
crickets

July 30, 2024

last kiss
in the autumn wind
sweet apples

Oct. 11, 2024

Comment: "Sweet" a good match for "kiss." The apples bumping together resemble kisses, while an actual kiss is also possible.

pomegranate seeds
in the extended family
a new birth

Oct. 31, 2024

Comment: Pomegranates are often eaten to stimulate female hormones Each seed is wrapped in its own fleshy cover but the seeds are all clumped together in the fruit is like one big family.

leaves fall
mum reads a page
again and again

Nov. 12, 2024

Comment: She is distracted by the falling going on around her, but we also imagine her aging and possible memory and attention loss.

Marjolein Rotsteeg (Hoenderloo, The Netherlands)

Christmas again
the same trenches
new soldiers

Jan. 3, 2024

Comment: "New Year" would have been too close a match.

Cezar Ciobîcă (Botoşani, Romania)

Xmas without snow ...
the kids in the orphanage
fight with pillows

Jan. 4, 2024

Comment: Not as fun as snowballs, maybe, but it will do.

melting

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April 4, 2024

summer's end ...
a spider weaves its web over
my butterfly net

Oct. 8, 2024

Comment: Great use of kigo.

plum season
the fighter's face
full of bruises

Nov. 14, 2024

Comment: A Japanese reader's first reaction to "plum" would be to think of the blossoms, so when we realize it is the season of the fruit, due to the resonance with bruises through color and actual bruising, it is an interesting surprise.

Irina Guliaeva (Moscow, Russia)

ivy losing leaves
those pauses
between your words

Jan. 5, 2024

Comment: The person may be talking about a delicate subject. The vine of the ivy is like the subject matter and each leaf a word. It is not immediately apparent if the setting is a church or another old building. "Church ivy" as the first two words might give a concrete setting while also suggesting the delicate topic was religion.

unpaid debts
still here
last year's leaves

Feb. 6, 2024

Comment: There is good resonance between the two main elements in the poem. Adding a concrete place after "still here" such as "at the such-and-such" might give even more depth.

first morning of new year
father clears
the path

Feb. 12, 2024

Comment: Nice and strong.

refugees
looking for a place to settle
snowflakes

March 6, 2024

Comment: Great pivot on middle line. The fragility of the snowflakes also a good match.

crescent moon
she wears nothing
but a smile

March 13, 2024

Comment: This is nice metaphor while also giving a playful concrete scene.

another snowfall
again introducing myself
to my father

March 23, 2024

Comment: The rewriting of the landscape with every snowfall, the intermittence of the falling snow itself and the lapsing memory of the old father resonate well.

snow mixed with rain
learning each other's
mother tongue

April 1, 2024

Comment: What do you call "snow mixed with rain" in your language? The "not quite one nor the other" status also goes well with the only partly mastered new language.

crescent moon
where the calendar was
bent nail

April 11, 2024

Comment: "Crescent" and "bent" go well together, as do "calendar" and "moon." This is a nice concrete scene focusing on that bent nail.

ice cracking on the river
divorce papers
unsigned

April 20, 2024

Comment: Where will the ice floes end up as they part and flow downstream?

march snowflakes
getting married
last single peers

April 30, 2024

Comment: "March" is an expert choice over "late spring." The last few same-age friends to tie the knot goes well with the last snowflakes of the season, while the ephemerality of that snow is poignant.

snow
in the abandoned garden
leaving too

May 2, 2024

Comment: The snow melts and the garden is once again visibly abandoned.

moon in the starless sky
she waits for her sons
to come back

May 17, 2024

visiting day
knocking on his window
bumblebee

June 7, 2024

graduation party
mum puts off
planting seedlings out

June 14, 2024

mother-in-law's tirade
flying all together
cherry petals and snowflakes

June 20, 2024

graduation photoshoot
eager to be immortalized
poplar fluff

July 13, 2024

Comment: Both the youths and the poplar fluff have this moment in time captured and recorded.

back from war
in the shell
no more sea

Aug. 6, 2024

Comment: The person's sense of hearing has been damaged.

jail window
struggling to get in
a moth

Aug. 20, 2024

perseids
in the beggar's hat
shining coin

Sept. 6, 2024

Comment: Amid so many haiku with snowflakes or hail falling into a beggar's hat this caught my eye. The falling meteors are seen in late summer.

police station
waiting outside
damaged peonies

Sept. 14, 2024

Comment: Behind the words I also imagine sex workers.

half-dead ivy
those gaps
between his messages

Oct. 5, 2024

selecting
the date of a flight
last leaf

Nov. 6, 2024

Comment: Someone is booking a plane in late autumn.
No-one can know the date on which that last leaf might fall.

short nap
waking up
in autumn

Nov. 30, 2024

old ladies in the yard
each time fewer and fewer
leaves

Dec. 6, 2024

Comment: Nice pivot on second line.

Monica Federico (Milan, Italy)

first frost —
the cat drinks from the hollow
of my hands

Jan. 6, 2024

Comment: The warmth from the poet's hands has melted the frost she scooped up to let the cat drink.
The interdependence of life is felt acutely.

towards the dawn —
scent of fireplaces
pervading the dark

Jan. 27, 2024

Comment: The visual and olfactory senses are both stimulated well.

Seed balls —
he doesn't ask the birds
where they come from

March 20, 2024

Comment: I imagine the people giving meals to refugees unconditionally no matter where they are from or what they have escaped from.

Archie Carlos (Minnesota, USA)

fall colors
my neighbor and I rake in
half the rainbow

Jan. 8, 2024

Comment: Reds, yellows and some greens.

extra fire
in the kung pao shrimp
dragon new year

March 1, 2024

Comment: A flame shoots high as the spicy shrimp is tossed in the wok.

deepening winter
rows and rows
of white shrouds

March 12, 2024

Comment: Focusing on the shrouds rather than the dead people (soldiers?) is very haiku-esque.

an arm's length
from the sashimi chef
Ides of March

May 3, 2024

Comment: The Ides of March was when Caesar was stabbed by Brutus, and the poet is within reach of the long, slender blade of the sushi chef.

Jerome Berglund (Minnesota, USA)

frosted spider's web
the earth gives gently
beneath my weight

Jan. 9, 2024

Comment: The web also bends slightly where the frost hangs from it. The moisture in the ground has frosted and caused the earth to expand so it can now be felt to give slightly. Well perceived and expertly conveyed!

a new crack
in the sidewalk
winter deepens

Feb. 19, 2024

picnic table
a party of gobblers
slinks by

April 27, 2024

Comment: "Gobblers" rather than "turkeys" makes this haiku so humorous.

perseids
shooting out across traffic
a slim jackrabbit

May 14, 2024

Comment: Nice pivot! I re-read this many times to assess whether "slim" added or detracted from the poem and conclude it adds depth.

drenched leaves
fall faster, dog and owner's
matching raincoats

June 27, 2024

wispy sky
handwoven scarves
at the bus stop

July 10, 2024

Comment: This haiku has nice resonance between the elements while conveying a concrete scene.

winter solstice
we reach the first bridge
of many

Dec. 24, 2024

Comment: The solstice somehow resembles the highest point on an arching bridge. "Winter" matches well with the feeling that there are many more obstacles to cross.

B. L. Bruce (California, USA)

washing away
the year's dust
first rain

Jan. 10, 2024

Comment: Another word or two to convey a concrete scene would further improve this and possibly add more depth as well.

Jeffrey Ferrara (Massachusetts, USA)

first snow
the wilted garden
made wondrous

Jan. 11, 2024

starry night
a cooling tower
vents into space

Jan. 23, 2024

Comment: The water vapor spouting into the clear night sky is easily visualized. The stars seem so close!

lonely fencepost still standing
all these years
without a beam

Feb. 13, 2024

Comment: Its very reason for existence has been taken away but still it exists.

boulder in the current
a trout
maybe two

Feb. 22, 2024

Comment: The ripples and moving water make it hard to see clearly and this is conveyed expertly.

old pilings
yielding slowly
to the current

Feb. 29, 2024

Comment: Such a long time captured in a moment.

a red koi
nuzzles my hand
Valentine's Day

March 2, 2024

moon enough
to fish the ice
without a lamp

March 7, 2024

Comment: The dark hole in the white ice contrasts against the bright full moon in the inky sky.

clay along the river
a sculptor
leaving prints

April 2, 2024

Comment: The sculptor is shaping clay even while collecting it!

mountain lion
everyone sees it
no one has proof

April 9, 2024

ice sculptures
morphing
into abstracts

April 22, 2024

Comment: This is a nice expression to convey their melting.

clean water
where the mudbugs
are present

May 9, 2024

Comment: What's in a name?!

a diamond ring
at the moment
of eclipse

May 21, 2024

Comment: The suitor has chosen a special moment for their proposal. The eclipse has been eclipsed by the appearance of that diamond ring.

ducks settling
on a lake
we fly over

May 28, 2024

Comment: The slow and relaxing first two lines are suddenly dragged into the modern age.

lake in the valley
a raptor soars
its length without flapping

June 6, 2024

Comment: When watching from on high, the entire vista of the lake can be taken in at one glance. Of course, the bird is too far away to identify it as an eagle, hawk or falcon, so "raptor" gives authenticity.

one leaf
of a lush green bough
waving wildly

July 5, 2024

Comment: It seems as if it is desperately trying to tell us something. I somehow imagine an environmental activist as this leaf.

climbing a tree
the human body
spreads its limbs

July 29, 2024

Comment: "Limbs" is perfect to make the tree and the human seem to hybridize.

where the slope is gentle
a basking turtle
slips from the rock

Aug. 2, 2024

trucks stalled
at the checkpoint
birds pass overhead

Aug. 14, 2024

a bison
and a boulder
rubbing shoulders

Aug. 24, 2024

Comment: Bringing the boulder to life brings the bison to life as well.

a soft rain
allowing the earth
to absorb it

Sept. 3, 2024

Comment: "Soft" is such a good choice of adjective. One imagines the rain as a loving partner or parent.

weeds as pretty
as anything
i plant

Sept. 10, 2024

i might be a heron
watching a shiner
enter my shade

Sept. 25, 2024

badminton
interrupted
by a butterfly

Sept. 30, 2024

Comment: Alliteration with a plosive really works well here.

the bell
without a tongue
in the garden of Buddha

Oct. 2, 2024

Comment: Just so!

just how much
the reed will bend
a cardinal knowing

Nov. 2, 2024

the powerline corridor
humming
with bees

Nov. 18, 2024

Comment: This haiku has a great pivot on second line, modifying both the first and third lines simultaneously.

off-road
a long antenna
whips through the goldenrod

Dec. 3, 2024

Comment: The goldenrod is already too tall for the car too be seen.

nearest the streetlamp
leaves
slow to turn

Dec. 18, 2024

Comment: Either the light is allowing them to photosynthesize more than the other leaves, or maybe there is warmth from the streetlamp. Keenly observed.

above the herd
not a cow
in the sky

Dec. 28, 2024

Comment: This is a brilliant way to picture the clouds and the myriad shapes they make.

Mario Massimo Zontini (Parma, Italy)

winter has come —
fighting for the same branch
two robins

Jan. 12, 2024

Comment: One cannot help but be reminded of "Game of Thrones." Perhaps those robins should be worrying about more than who gets space on that branch.

departing autumn
hardly to be seen
wild geese in the mist

Jan. 29, 2024

Comment: Soon those geese will depart too.

the blue moon
lights up the stubble:
gold in the fields

Oct. 25, 2024

Mirela Brailean (Iași, Romania)

far from home
only the crickets' song
familiar

Jan. 13, 2024

Comment: People always try to latch onto something familiar to contextualize. Loneliness comes across well with the cricket song.

winter fog
grandpa wipes in vain
his glasses

Feb. 27, 2024

Comment: "Winter" fits well as grandpa's eyesight is never going to get any better.

the flamenco's steps
which I have never learned
peonies in the wind

Aug. 28, 2024

Comment: Watching peonies caused the author to remember the flamenco.

Teiichi Suzuki (Osaka, Japan)

hunter's moon
the shadow of the old dog
becomes a wolf

Jan. 15, 2024

Comment: The hunter's moon, in October, is the perfect fit — bright and in the same month as Halloween.

drowning out
a cold winter wind
ambulance

Jan. 31, 2024

falling leaves
melancholy eyes
of the gorilla

March 8, 2024

Comment: This haiku provides a nice surprise with "gorilla."

moon at its zenith
upstream in shallows
salmon's shadow

April 5, 2024

Comment: I would add "the" before "shallows" to make it sound more natural. The alliteration with "s" suggests the sound of the water.

back alley
even the stray cats
with partners

April 23, 2024

Comment: Why do I feel this alley is behind a nightclub?

ghostly hour
hina dolls whisper
cheap gossip

June 3, 2024

spring mist
how mysterious
the earth is

June 18, 2024

Comment: All forms of nature start to appear — sometimes as if from nowhere.

feeling in my bed
earth axis tilts a little
summer solstice nears

July 17, 2024

Comment: Lying down horizontally in bed felt fresh to me.

my wallet
filled with unpaid bills
ceaseless rain

Aug. 21, 2024

Hydrangeas
blurring a little
in the rain

Sept. 17, 2024

Comment: The flowers are normally so vivid. I can almost imagine the rain washing out some of the colors.

burning sun
in my jeans' pocket
heated coins

Oct. 16, 2024

dragonflies
without even shade trees
battle field

Nov. 16, 2024

Comment: The last line evokes both a "battlefield" from war as well as a field where the dragonflies are battling each other for prey.

composed haiku
e-mail to the other side
of the moonlit world

Dec. 23, 2024

Comment: "Moonlit" really makes this haiku. It seems like the moonlight has carried the haiku there.

Lothar M. Kirsch (Kall, Germany)

bare reeds
sticking out of the snow
thinking of dad

Jan. 16, 2024

Comment: Cognitively the link to "bare reeds" and the latter part of the haiku is not easily perceived but it really feels like they belong.

in the rain
still standing upright
the weeping snowman

Feb. 16, 2024

Comment: His whole body is weeping.

already
the cranes return
but not the dead

April 16, 2024

Comment: This is even more poignant when we recall it is the cranes that are said to carry new life.

in the dull twilight
the peach blossoms still glow —
retirement

May 8, 2024

Comment: "Peach" contrasts well with "retirement."

fresh sprigs
on the cut down elder bush
and kids laughing

May 16, 2024

Comment: There is a nice contrast here between young and old, new life made possible through the sacrifice of the older branches.

constant rain
of the wisteria flowers
on a sunny day

June 19, 2024

Comment: This haiku has a nice pivot in second line from where we are imaging actual rain to suddenly seeing showers of blossoms.

wind driven clouds
the trees bend back and forth
I simply sit

July 18, 2024

just enough sun
not to drown
in the rain

Aug. 19, 2024

dementia —
footprints on the beach
all washed away

Sept. 27, 2024

Comment: Good match.

ripe blackberries
cicadas keep chirping
but granny's gone

Oct. 23, 2024

Comment: Life goes on regardless.

foliage colors
changing to sepia
our family portrait

Nov. 23, 2024

Comment: The leaves are changing from red and yellow to brown as well as they age.

Lucia Fontana (Milan, Italy)

days flying by
birch, which will be
your last leaf

Jan. 17, 2024

Comment: The birch is normally associated with birth and new beginnings so this makes its choice more interesting than "oak," for example.

Nitu Yumnam (West Bengal, India)

waxing moon
the time it takes
to fully heal

Jan. 18, 2024

Comment: The last two lines not only refer to the moon but also to the poet.

fast-moving clouds
this longing
to fly back home

April 17, 2024

the softness
of snowberries
newborn's cheeks

Aug. 23, 2024

Comment: Producing metaphors through juxtaposition is a common technique in haiku and this is a good example.

harvest moon
a lone deer lingers
in fading light

Sept. 26, 2024

Comment: Here we see nice alliteration and juxtaposition with hunting vs. harvest.

your absence —
a cut apple continues
to brown

Oct. 19, 2024

grief —
a moth drifts slowly
around the dim light

Nov. 13, 2024

Comment: Juxtaposition becomes a metaphor.

lotus buds
the clenched fist
of a newborn

Dec. 5, 2024

Comment: Both will unfurl. Lotus features prominently in Buddhism, which in Japan is the religion most often turned to as one approaches death. It also teaches people "to let go" — to the babe here.

writer's block
driftwood tangled
in seaweed

Dec. 30, 2024

Comment: A nice metaphor. "Block of wood" also springs to mind.

writer's block
driftwood tangled
in seaweed

Dec. 30, 2024

Comment: A nice metaphor. "Block of wood" also springs to mind.

Anthony Lusardi (New Jersey, USA)

dandelion seeds
among the rubble
after the fire

Jan. 20, 2024

Comment: A new beginning seems ensured.

Lyudmila Hristova (Sofia, Bulgaria)

beginning of winter
the snowman is still
just snow

Jan. 22, 2024

Comment: Very nice. The snowman exists before it physically exists!

full moon
the shapes of shadows changed
by the passing stray cat

April 15, 2024

Comment: The poet draws attention to "stray" by sacrificing rhythm, so they obviously wanted the reader to think deeply about how that word affects the message of the poem.

solar eclipse
the cookies in the new oven
got burnt

May 20, 2024

Comment: Someone was paying too much attention to the eclipse and forgot to check the cookies. Now they look black with a ring of fire — just like the sun looked?

unfamiliar road
just the fly in the car
keeps me company

May 29, 2024

the tide is
slowly rising —
shooting stars

June 8, 2024

Comment: There is good contrast here between something rising from below and falling from above, and the slow-but-sure and fleeting phenomena of nature.

after Grandma's death —
the forget-me-nots in the yard
became less and less

June 21, 2024

Comment: The garden is not getting watered as much as before, perhaps. Time moves on.

sky of wishes —
soldiers sleep under
shooting stars

July 12, 2024

Comment: The soldiers make a wish each time they see a falling star that the war will end. "Shooting" makes it almost seem like a battle rages on in the sky while the soldiers are recovering from the daytime battle.

lazy noon
shadows of clouds
anchored at sea

Aug. 13, 2024

Comment: This is a nice expression to convey the lack of wind.

Jim Young (haigo: Oyoguhito) (Wales, UK)

marathon
ten thousand runners
leave me breathless

Jan. 24, 2024

Comment: The last line is a wonderful expression that conveys both the poet's awe at the sight but also plays to the effects on one's respiration of running a marathon.

sunshine here
400 miles away she
starts radiotherapy

Nov. 7, 2024

Comment: One kind of electromagnetic wave in the form of sunlight is present in both places and reminds the poet that their female friend is about to be bathed in a different type of electromagnetic wave.

Wieslaw Karlinski (Namysłów, Poland)

school trip
the biggest attraction
new botany teacher

Jan. 25, 2024

Comment: I imagine an all-boys or an all-girls school, with a new teacher of the opposite sex.

the border
both here and there
the lark's song

Dec. 7, 2024

Comment: Only humans care about such artificial borders.

Alvin B. Cruz (Manila, Philippines)

autumn river
my paper boat runs
into a leaf

Jan. 30, 2024

catching
a falling leaf —
year's end

Feb. 3, 2024

Comment: It feels like the poet doesn't want the year to end.

winter deepens
at the bottom of the well
full moon

March 5, 2024

Comment: "Deepens" really works well here. Meaning-wise I wonder if "a sliver of moon" might not resonate with winter deepening better than "full moon" since to be full usually has positive connotations?

morning glory
the shortness
of father's breath

April 3, 2024

Comment: Rather than the father having been up early and exercising gloriously, I feel instead that the father is unwell and the morning glory blooms have had attention called to them because they only last for the short morning. Perhaps the flowers need a verb associated with them to integrate them fully in the poem.

dinner alone
the closeness of
a cluster of grapes

May 24, 2024

seashells
so many memories
to forget

May 30, 2024

Comment: Looking at the seashells has stirred old memories. It is not clear why the poet lingers on the memories they want to forget. Perhaps an adjective to go with seashells could fill in the train of thought.

summer's end —
a raindrop falls
on a falling leaf

June 10, 2024

Comment: "End" takes the front seat due to the rain falling on a falling leaf, rather than a fallen one.

mother's roses
climbing higher
April moon

July 1, 2024

Comment: The pivot in second line, simultaneously modifying both the first and third lines, is good. Our line of sight starts with the earth and ends in the sky.

memories ...
the depth of footprints
in the sand

July 25, 2024

Comment: Memories are fickle in the way they are made and remembered — just like footprints in the sand.

spring showers
grandma catches
the bride's bouquet

Aug. 1, 2024

Comment: Spring showers are unpredictable so they go well with the grandmother catching the bouquet that the next-to-be-married person usually catches. The plural for "showers" points to an extended period of time, while the catching is a moment. the haiku could be further improved by putting both in the moment somehow.

April snow
mother calls me
by another name

Aug. 10, 2024

Comment: The unexpected weirdness of snow in April resonates well with the final two lines. One also imagines there could be a special name for such late-falling snow in some languages, and we also can imagine the mother may not be around for much longer — just like the snow.

mackerel sky
this longing
to wander

Aug. 17, 2024

Comment: The cloud formation like scales over the sky does indeed instill such a feeling as well as mackerel being a far-ranging fish.

Zen garden
a butterfly
between the stones

Sept. 2, 2024

Comment: Impermanence and permanence are juxtaposed. What better place for this to happen than in a Zen garden!

as if knocking
on my window
moonlight

Sept. 7, 2024

deep pond
the dark circles
under my eyes

Sept. 16, 2024

Comment: The two elements are visually similar but the deep pond seems to also refer to some very deep and difficult problem the poet is wrestling with that is giving them insomnia.

gentle rain
yet the waterlily
trembles

Oct. 1, 2024

Comment: "Yet" is superb. What is gentle to some, may not be to others.

crescent moon
grandma rocks
her chair

Oct. 30, 2024

Comment: The rockers on a rocking chair are curved like the crescent moon so the elements go well together and the scene is concrete. Perhaps a verb to modify the moon or an adjective to modify "rocks" could be added to give more depth?

in the world
but not of it
skylark's song

Nov. 1, 2024

Comment: Heavenly!

dipping the quill
into the ink bottle
autumn deepens

Dec. 2, 2024

Comment: Wonderful! The parts just seem to fit though we can't cognitively understand why. The darkness of the ink and "deepens" resonate.

cracking open
my fortune cookie
harvest moon

Dec. 13, 2024

Comment: The crescent-shaped fortune cookie gives a harvest of a fortune to be read.

melting snow
remembering
mother's words

Dec. 31, 2024

Comment: With time those words will melt from memory, though. We wonder what their mother said.

Fariba Swinscoe (London, UK)

Bombs on Gaza
The holly pricks my fingers
Christmas Eve

Feb. 1, 2024

Comment: The small pain reminds the poet of the larger pain. "Christmas Eve" conveys the poet's wish for the present of peace to be given.

Ana Drobot (Bucharest, Romania)

New Year's Eve —
swinging back and forth
an old swing

Feb. 2, 2024

Comment: Wonderful! Normally "New Year's Eve" gets juxtaposed with long and continuous things like sticks, trains, tunnels, etc. or with ephemeral things like snow that none-the-less last from the day before in the previous year to New Year's Day. This haiku is interesting as the swing undulates back and forth repeatedly, contrasting with the ever-forward march of time. Are we really progressing? Do things ever really change?

Lorelyn De la Cruz Arevalo (Singapore)

new year
when fireworks
aren't fireworks

Feb. 5, 2024

Comment: Fireworks are usually for visual enjoyment — that is their reason for existence. On New Year's Eve they become, instead, a marker for the event when they are let off. This haiku caused me to think of the tragedy in Hawai'i this year when fireworks caused deaths.

Mara Faccioni (Milan, Italy)

first day of the year — the old clock
always shows the same time

Feb. 7, 2024

Comment: Some things don't change over time.

the snow falls — clouds of incense rise
from the temple

Feb. 21, 2024

Comment: The contrast between falling and rising works well with the ephemerality of both the snow and incense in a religious setting. The scene is nice and concrete too.

empty bench — his face fades into the
autumn mist

Nov. 29, 2024

Comment: The poet remembers sitting on this bench with him, but now only the mist is here and memories of him are also fading.

Barbara Anna Gaiardoni (Verona, Italy)

New Year
vintage wine
and memories

Feb. 8, 2024

Comment: Contrasting old and new with "vintage" also seems to modify the memories. It delivers a nice positive and celebratory feeling.

Sari Grandstaff (New York, USA)

floating slowly
down the Danube
into the new year

Feb. 9, 2024

Comment: The Danube River features so prominently in so much of western culture that one feels it is not only the poet but the whole of civilization making that one-way journey through both space and time.

hammering nails
on the boardwalk
spring sea

March 29, 2024

Comment: The untamability of the spring sea contrasts well with the act of hammering nails. This is a nice concrete image.

looking up
his phone number
northern lights

Dec. 9, 2024

Comment: The first line modifies both the second and third lines. The author wants to make sure they can share this experience with that man.

Stephen A. Peters (Washington, USA)

nursing home window
the fall colors that
have faded away

Feb. 10, 2024

Comment: Unfortunately, nursing homes and hospitals have an image of being clinical and drab, so this matches the loss of color as the leaves on the trees are now brown and sere.

winter breeze
in the name of comfort
we go our separate ways

Feb. 28, 2024

Comment: One feels it is not just getting out of the biting cold that is being referred to here, and lovers may be parting, not just physically.

spring haze
she asks me to give back
the key to her heart

April 25, 2024

Comment: It is the season of love, but the scene is hazy and uncertain, as is her heart.

spring cleaning
i am over her
sort of

May 6, 2024

Comment: It seems the poet has thrown away most, but not all, of the keepsakes and reminders of their past love.

spring breeze
remembering when things were
easier to remember

July 3, 2024

Comment: Autumn breeze would have been too negative. The poet is now in the spring season while their mind is also being turned back to the spring of their life.

wildflowers
me still not interested
in putting down roots

Oct. 17, 2024

Comment: The poet still feels "wild." Wildflowers pop up here, pop up there, and they are not referred to by any one species name — the epitome of freedom.

the maybe
maybe not between us
campfire sparks

Nov. 11, 2024

Comment: "Sparks" works well to convey both a concrete scene with movement as well as the psychological events happening between the two parties.

Aljosa Vukovic (Šibenik, Croatia)

her clinical death —
one star still
changing its mind

Feb. 14, 2024

Comment: The star twinkles and the poet feels it is either still deciding to be bright or faint or even whether it will fall from the sky as a shooting star. Clinical death is when blood ceases to circulate and breathing stops. A patient can possibly be resuscitated. I was drawn to this poem though I fail to cognitively understand it.

minefield —
rain ignores
the warnings

March 14, 2024

Comment: No entry signs are battered by the rain, as are the earth and the mines within it.

France-UK border
la Lune becomes
the Moon

March 26, 2024

Comment: The exact same entity is called by different names, depending on an artificial border.

Tony Williams (Scotland, UK)

deep snow
a familiar path
never seen before

Feb. 15, 2024

Comment: A path forged through deep snow looks much the same, regardless of its final destination.

alone
among the tulips
falling to bits

June 12, 2024

Comment: Both the poet themselves and the tulips seem to be in a state of disarray, the poet's being mentally.

passing clouds ...
they say blue whales
are returning

Nov. 20, 2024

Comment: A cloud shaped like a whale caused the poet to remember.

John Pappas (Massachusetts, USA)

young daughter —
she warms my heart
with a snowball

Feb. 17, 2024

Comment: This is an interesting juxtaposition of warmth and something cold.

Oscar Luparia (Vercelli, Italy)

winter harvest
the bare trees
laden with stars

Feb. 20, 2024

spring breeze
all she can do
with her voice

June 13, 2024

Comment: Spring brings a feeling of happiness and wanting to try out new things. The breeze as well is making all sorts of noises as it blows through different things.

cumulonimbus ...
a light dinner recipe
cauliflower salad

July 9, 2024

Comment: "Cumulonimbus" and "cauliflower" visually resemble each other so match well but perhaps a picnic rather than dinner would help to portray a concrete scene more easily.

Tomislav Maretic (Zagreb, Croatia)

day moon
is ready in the sky —
the longest night

Feb. 23, 2024

road lamps ...
full moon free
of moths

Oct. 24, 2024

Comment: The moths are all circling around the street lamps.

Helen Buckingham (Somerset, UK)

Memorial Park
children leaving
angels in the snow

Feb. 24, 2024

Comment: "Memorial" goes well with the snow
"angels."

late summer stars
kisses
in the dark

Aug. 22, 2024

Comment: Those kisses stolen while watching the stars
are like stars themselves.

world wide glitch
lucky for us the forests
are still analogue

Sept. 5, 2024

I express my fears
over assisted dying
she deadheads a rose

Sept. 13, 2024

Comment: The last line is so powerful, simultaneously
concretely stating how the listener is tending the
garden but also evoking the image of death.

whispering
sweet nothing
willow breeze

Sept. 23, 2024

Comment: Both the person and the breeze are
whispering.

white butterflies
fan the fall
heat

Oct. 4, 2024

Comment: "Fall" rather than "autumn" is definitely the
right choice here in terms of poesy.

holding on
to summer —
rollercoaster

Nov. 9, 2024

Comment: Holding on to the rollercoaster as well.

headlights on the last of the sunflowers
gone

Dec. 10, 2024

Jacek Kielich (Wieliczka, Poland)

snow plain
first man
on the Moon

Feb. 26, 2024

Comment: There is not a single footprint!

Marek Printer (Kielce, Poland)

Valentine's sun
our shadows
touch each other

March 4, 2024

Comment: The poem gives the feeling that the two are not yet a couple but have feelings for each other.

in front of the rheumatologist
old spruce trees
creak

March 16, 2024

spring equinox
the horizon cuts
the moon in half

May 4, 2024

Comment: Equinox is the day when both day and night are the same length — exactly half a day each. An adjective for "moon" that would resonate with "spring" might be good to include.

gust of wind ...
where the blowballs grew
a group of skinheads

May 23, 2024

Comment: Dandelion seed puffs have been blown away by the wind and are seemingly replaced by skinheads. The roundness of the seed puffs and the pates of the skinheads a good match.

talking to my father
about sex
— flowering nettles

June 17, 2024

Comment: A sensitive topic where you feel like you might get stung.

meteor shower ends
the grass
wet with the dew

Oct. 9, 2024

Comment: This is a nice contrast between heavenly and earthly entities. Almost as if wet by the shower.

Hunter's Moon
the saint's face in stained glass
so bright

Dec. 4, 2024

Comment: The moon is behind the saint's face, lighting it up. We imagine the saint hunting for converts.

Paul David Mena (Massachusetts, USA)

snow flurries
my granddaughter's
tiny heartbeat

March 9, 2024

Comment: Flurries goes so well with the small heartbeat.

Daniel Birnbaum (La Bouilladisse, France)

ice this morning
plays with the light
that will make it disappear

March 11, 2024

Comment: Dependence on one's enemy?

Marina Bellini (Mantua, Italy)

wolf moon
its cold light follows
the alley cat

March 15, 2024

Comment: The wolf moon of January rather than the hunter moon of October is definitely the best match.

Eva Limbach (Saarbrücken, Germany)

winter's end
the rosemary sprig
puts down roots

March 18, 2024

Comment: The haiku triggers thoughts of a person also doing so.

Mihaela Iacob (Târgu Neamț, Romania)

humanity —
a snowman gives his scarf
to a homeless man

March 19, 2024

Comment: People would clothe the snowman with a scarf but not offer one to a homeless man.

Radostina Dragostinova (Sofia, Bulgaria)

the stars disappear one by one
in the fishing net
daybreak

March 21, 2024

Comment: The stars and the morning sun both seem to be trapped in the net.

David Jacobs (London, UK)

winter sun
on the war memorial
shadows of the looking

March 22, 2024

Comment: Here we see an expert abbreviation for "of the people who are looking." The weak winter sun and indistinct shadows also match well cognitively with the name lists of war dead.

after the daffodils
the graves
left to their own

April 13, 2024

Comment: The passage of time is conveyed well with the whole life of a daffodil captured.

Marc Brimble (Catarroja, Spain)

crossing the road
despite the traffic
— the shadows of trees

March 25, 2024

Comment: We wonder if someone is crossing the road to get a better look at the nature space, then suddenly at the third line it is the tree's shadows that are crossing the road as well.

Francoise Maurice (Draguignan, France)

rainbow
on her face the light
of a smile

March 27, 2024

Comment: "On her face" modifies both what comes before and after. This is a nice technique.

beach bar
clearing the table
a sparrow

Aug. 9, 2024

Comment: Because this is a haiku, we imagine that the sparrow is clearing the table by pecking up leftover crumbs rather than a human clearing the table while a sparrow hops around on the ground.

in spite of it all
trying to find a meaning
Milky Way

Oct. 18, 2024

Comment: They are looking up at the vast galaxy, seemingly full of limitless possibilities, while just being there — just so.

Julia Guzman (Cordoba, Argentina)

stillness —
only my heart beat
by the river

April 6, 2024

Comment: It is a very slow flowing river. The waters are still and so is everywhere on its banks. The poet's heart is pumping blood through her body, though, and can faintly be heard or sensed.

Eleonore Nickolay (Vaires sur Marne, France)

flight of wild geese
and me with my feet
in the mud

April 8, 2024

Comment: The geese had their feet in the mud, too, not long ago but they are flying off to somewhere better.

motionless heron
in the river
its shadow ripples

June 5, 2024

Comment: A keen observation!

Goran Gatalica (Zagreb, Croatia)

mother's dreams —
the sagebrush is
jeweled with dew

April 10, 2024

autumn deepens —
the first booming
echoes of rifles

Sept. 18, 2024

Comment: "Booming" and "deepens" fit well. Shooting starting certainly gives a winter-is-near kind of feeling.

Billy Guerriero (Colorado, USA)

mackerel sky
rumors about me
are true

April 12, 2024

Comment: The not-quite-touching but kind-of-touching placement of the individual clouds in a mackerel sky goes well with "rumors," and those cloud formations do cause one to become introspective.

chimney smoke leaving town a stranger

April 26, 2024

Comment: The reader has to decide whether the poet is leaving town as a stranger or whether there is some other stranger leaving town. The smoke, too, has changed from its wooden form and is now a stranger and leaving town as it rises.

Lucia Cardillo (Foggia, Italy)

finding a home
among smashed roofs ...
swallows

April 18, 2024

Comment: The surprise on the third line is good.

Kirk Budhooram (Trinidad, West Indies)

Worry not
my little flower
your fragrance wafts after you're crushed

April 19, 2024

Ivan Gacina (Zadar, Croatia)

diagnosis ...
between blank lines
dusk unfolds

April 24, 2024

Comment: We see a good turn of phrase for conveying the desolate feeling when receiving a bad diagnosis for a disease.

Katherine E Winnick (Brighton, UK)

day moon
the blackbird's song
deepens

April 29, 2024

Comment: Blackbirds in common lore symbolize mystery, magic and death while also being connected to the symbolism of the moon. Perhaps that is why it feels like the right fit in this haiku.

Hunter's moon ...
the scent
on the swamp

Dec. 16, 2024

Comment: We imagine not just the unpleasant scent of the swamp but also other scents such as those of a hunter's quarry. The change in gravity during the lunar cycles can release smelly gases so it cognitively makes sense as well.

Vandana Parashar (Panchkula, India)

avoiding
what I was seeking last month
late March sun

May 1, 2024

Comment: Last month it was cold and overcast while now the sun is warm enough to be uncomfortable. It seems the poet is also avoiding something other than the sun.

dl mattila (Connecticut, USA)

the farmer asks
if we've seen his cow
spring breeze

May 7, 2024

Comment: Freedom can be felt on the spring wind.

Nathan McCoslin (Fukuoka, Japan)

the rain in
a cloud-filled
puddle

May 10, 2024

Comment: This is a nice cyclic image, from the rain falling from the clouds to sitting water and back to clouds.

her name was
lily pads
in the rain

June 15, 2024

Comment: She transforms from plain old Lily to some native American or Asian woman before disappearing altogether as the lily pads wipe out her existence like rain ripples on the pond.

Rosa Maria Di Salvatore (Catania, Italy)

shimmer of butterflies
in the air ...
laughter of children

May 11, 2024

Comment: This depicts both a concrete scene with causality as well as a metaphor.

empty chatter ...
the non-stop singing
of the cicadas

Nov. 27, 2024

Comment: We chatter and they chatter too.

starry night ...
only the two of us
and our smiles

Dec. 27, 2024

Daniela Misso (San Gemini, Italy)

being pushed
in my wheelchair off road ...
wild mint

May 13, 2024

Comment: The aroma of the mint as it is crushed beneath the wheels is so pleasant, as is being off-road.

Stephen Toft (Lancaster, UK)

the poacher
exhales
midnight stars

May 15, 2024

Comment: Their white breath is easily imagined as it dissipates to join the stars.

Clark Strand (New York, USA)

before they put them
in the zen garden these rocks
were already calm

May 18, 2024

Srini (Rishi Valley, India)

the first
stirrings of a storm
grapevine wind

May 22, 2024

Comment: The wind rattling one leaf causes the next leaf to move slightly too, until everyone knows the storm is coming.

all that remains
of the last birdsong ...
wind

Nov. 19, 2024

Comment: The birds have all flown away and only the bitter cold wind remains. Movement of air through the throats of the birds is now just movement of air.

deepening
this loneliness
double rainbow

Dec. 19, 2024

Comment: Even just a single rainbow is a sight one wants to share with another. Rainbows usually appear single so when seeing a double one the poet also is keenly reminded they are single and alone while even the rainbow has a partner.

Salvatore Tempo (Bron, France)

some of the crows
in the mass of shadow
are not there

May 25, 2024

Comment: The crows' shadows look like crows themselves. There is a very mysterious and ominous feel to this poem.

ultimately
between grass and grass
other grasses

July 11, 2024

Comment: Very Zen.

getting to know
the life of a tree
when the trunk is cut

Aug. 3, 2024

Comment: It is often the same when someone close to us dies. With the tree, one would look at the growth rings to see periods of hardship and vitality.

the scarf
stuck in the tree
finally breaks free

Aug. 29, 2024

Comment: The poet also has had something niggling at their conscience for a while that has finally been released.

we write, we erase
we rewrite, but what ...
the ivy keeps growing

Sept. 4, 2024

Comment: A vine joins each leaf to the next until finally the growing shoot is reached. It is a little hard to see the concrete image though as is. I imagine not a church, but maybe an old schoolhouse. Perhaps the poet could add a place to modify "ivy."

a cascade of stars
falls
on the banana tree

Oct. 3, 2024

Comment: "Stars" and "banana tree" just seem to match so well.

greener
than the green of the meadow
the spring frog

Oct. 15, 2024

Comment: This reminds me of Ryunosuke Akutagawa's haiku "green frog / you too seem / freshly painted" but it is more interesting since the frog's green is for camouflage so it really should be the same color as its environment. As spring progresses the leaves will become darker and we can assume the meadow's green will come to approach that of the frog. Very nice!

September equinox
my mother and my sister
same size

Nov. 4, 2024

Comment: Sister's size is increasing and Mother's is decreasing as they both age. This is a good match for the equinox, when day and night meet half and half.

Vladislav Hristov (Plovdiv, Bulgaria)

the silence
between two caws —
morning meditation

May 27, 2024

Comment: The sounds are so raw they even break through one's concentration on not concentrating.

Carmela Marino (Rome, Italy)

evening breeze
along with a petal
its shadow falls

May 31, 2024

Comment: Keenly observed.

Strider Marcus Jones (Leicestershire, UK)

turning wheel of time
paddle steamboat roaming down
the Mississippi

June 1, 2024

Comment: We think back to the time of Tom Sawyer.

S. Eta Grubescic (Bukovac, Serbia)

train in the fog
between silhouettes
— red suitcase

June 4, 2024

Comment: Only that red is bright enough to stand out in the fog. So much depends on a red suitcase bathed in fog.

Jagajit Salam (Manipur, India)

roadside cosmos
my destination
takes a backseat

June 11, 2024

Comment: This is a nice turn of phrase to convey the joy of seeing all those flowers.

Patricia Hawkhead (Bradford on Avon, UK)

winter sunlight
on a family portrait
fated for landfill

June 22, 2024

Comment: The scene I imagine is of someone cleaning up when the last member of a family has died and there is no one to claim their personal possessions. The faint winter sunshine conveys just enough warmth that it matches well with the emotions of the observer.

Cezar Florescu (Botoşani, Romania)

Perseids ...
a mole emerges
from its burrow

June 24, 2024

Comment: Surely the mole cannot detect the meteors falling from the sky but nevertheless, its timing is impeccable.

Tzetzka Ilieva (Georgia, USA)

spraying for insects ...
trying not to meet
the garden Buddha's eyes

June 25, 2024

Comment: "We are all Buddha," it seems to stare.

we relearn
to like each other ...
purple pickerel rush

Oct. 21, 2024

Comment: I imagine a married couple who have grown apart over the years and are now empty nesters or retired and are gardening together as a way to spend time together and get to know each other again.

Pickerel rush is an extremely hardy semiaquatic plant that only drought or full shade can kill. It is viewed as a safe choice since presumably it won't die and so neither would be blamed by the other if it did. It is also pretty, though somewhat weedlike.

D. V. Rozic (Ivanić-Grad, Croatia)

Great titmouse
and Eurasian blue tit —
the war for bacon

June 28, 2024

Comment: Though this is a perfectly documented concrete observation, I still detect a subliminal commentary on the Russia-Ukraine war.

Priscilla H. Lignori (New York, USA)

Village-wide yard sale —
an inchworm joins the items
on the tablecloth

June 29, 2024

Comment: The inchworm adds to the at-home feeling of the yard sale.

Dimitri N. Avgerinos (Damascus, Syria)

the gentle breeze
shaped by
scattering plum blossoms

July 2, 2024

Comment: Without the blossoms it carries, it would be invisible.

a hot night —
the silence
between two moans

Aug. 27, 2024

Comment: Since attention is drawn to the hotness of the night I imagine these moans being of pain rather than pleasure, especially since there is silence between them. The oppressive heat matches well the inability to escape the pain.

to my convalescent wife
offering the last persimmon
left on the tree

Dec. 26, 2024

Comment: A tribute!

Manasa Kaliki / Manasa Reddy Chichili (Telangana, India)

first summer rain
it colors
the dry river

July 4, 2024

Comment: Every rock takes on a different hue.

Far from home
Only the cicada hums
Are familiar

July 16, 2024

Comment: This is too close to Mirela Brailean's Jan. 13 haiku "far from home / only the crickets' song / familiar." Be very careful of "ruiso" (similar thinking). It is OK to paraphrase or allude to another haiku to enrich your own if the latter haiku adds something new. In this case, the poet might say, "far from home / familiar cricket songs / (and something else here in the 3rd line like "in Transylvania" or "in the salt mine" which would also allude to Romania and let the reader know you were paraphrasing the first two lines from the Romanian poet Mirela.)

snowflakes
first voice of
newborn

Dec. 25, 2024

Comment: The newborn is as fragile as a snowflake and will grow into an individual exactly like no other.

Kelly Shaw (Illinois, USA)

softening the gates
and confusing the fences
wildflowers return

July 6, 2024

Comment: This is a nice turn of phrase.

Kelly Shaw (Illinois, USA)

the butterflies look
even more liberating
by the exam hall

July 26, 2024

Comment: "Liberating" rather than "free" conveys the poet's thoughts that a higher education is worthwhile rather than just suggesting they want the exams to be over quickly.

my friends are finding
new beliefs while I go out
and collect seashells

Aug. 5, 2024

Comment: A belief is a thing, just like a seashell, that can be picked up and owned.

the plow suddenly
runs deeper in its furrow
looking at the moon

Dec. 11, 2024

Comment: Seeming causality based on serendipity of timing can sometimes point to deeper connections.

Arvinder Kaur (Chandigarh, India)

on her last breath
the moon at mother's window
so pale

July 8, 2024

Comment: Pale like her face, it adds to the image well.

a host of dew drops
share the first sun ray
autumn chill

Nov. 28, 2024

Comment: Beautiful until the sun burns them away.

Mauro Battini (Pisa, Italy)

veiled moon —
a scent of jasmine
before seeing It

July 15, 2024

Comment: The white flowers of jasmine would glow in the moonlight but are invisible because the moon is veiled. "Moon" and "jasmine" are a natural match.

Muskaan Ahuja (Chandigarh, India)

long argument ...
the water in the pan comes
to a rolling boil

July 19, 2024

Valentina Meloni (Castiglione del Lago, Italy)

violets among the ruins —
nostalgia for what
I haven't experienced

July 20, 2024

Comment: When one sees ruins it is common to imagine what the building once looked like and since the image comes from one's experiences, there can be a sense of nostalgia. The poet sees themselves here as a violet.

Rob McKinnon (Bridgewater, Australia)

harvest moon
mice resting
in its shadows

July 22, 2024

Comment: The moon is so bright that the mice need to stay out of the moonlight to avoid being caught by an owl. There are always mice around any harvest.

Dan Iulian (Bucharest, Romania)

first date
first kiss in the shade
of her family tree

July 23, 2024

Comment: "Family tree" is both a large and important tree the family has looked after and a suggestion she may come from a well-to-do or famous lineage -- hence the shade.

Elena Zouain (Remiremont, France)

hammock —
evening falls before
the afterword

July 24, 2024

Comment: A lazy day reading with the days getting shorter. "Afterword" differs by only one letter from "afterworld" -- I had to read this twice!

Polly Katayama (California, USA)

dog lays on his side
waiting
like a just baked sweet potato

July 27, 2024

Comment: This is a very fresh metaphor. I had never even considered a dog being like a sweet potato before.

lonesome sunny day
great white egret
shows up in my yard

Sept. 28, 2024

Comment: Its white is blinding in the sun, demanding attention.

Hla Yin Mon (Yangon, Myanmar)

re-potting plants
the signs of aging
everywhere

July 31, 2024

Comment: The signs are not just in the plants but in the pots, the building, and in the poet themselves.

forgiving myself
forgiving them all
cherry blossoms

Aug. 7, 2024

Comment: The wartime acts of both sides are not always things to be proud of. Mortals appear and disappear just like the cherry blossoms with their petals scattered to the wind.

monsoon thunder
our prayers for peace
a bit louder

Sept. 9, 2024

equanimity —
the way the fragrant rose
lets the jasmine be

Oct. 26, 2024

Comment: This is poignant when considering that the poet comes from civil war-torn Myanmar.

Ken Sawitri (Jawa Tengah, Indonesia)

distant war
a coconut seed falls
with its bullet-proof jacket

Aug. 8, 2024

Comment: One would imagine the poet didn't try shooting it out of the tree with a bullet but rather just noticed the husk anew. Even with the husk to protect it, the seed still falls.

Semih Ozmeric (Karabiga, Turkey)

crows take wing
swinging pine twigs
wave goodbye

Aug. 12, 2024

Comment: The movement of the twigs the crows were perching on is conveyed well.

Giuliana Ravaglia (Marzabotto, Italy)

in a low voice
ancient promises —
white lilies

Aug. 15, 2024

Comment: I imagine the setting to be either a wedding or a funeral since white lilies can be found at both due to their symbolizing both purity and also death. The ancient promises are the vows or prayers. Making the actual setting more concrete could improve this haiku.

Stephen J. DeGuire (California, USA)

hummingbird's
parry then riposte
bottlebrush

Aug. 16, 2024

Comment: This is a good metaphor comparing the hummingbird's movements to fencing. I wonder if "bottlebrush" is the only flower that might unveil a truth without remaining just a fact?

Rosemarie Schuldes (Mattsee, Austria)

after the storm
sweeping up cherry petals
let's be friends again

Aug. 26, 2024

Comment: All the petals have fallen, and it's time to start a new page.

Shloka Shankar (Bangalore, India)

bone white sky
the arrhythmic flapping
of a clothesline

Aug. 30, 2024

Comment: "Arrhythmic" and "bone white" feel right together but something seems to be missing to make the scene more concrete.

Farah Ali (Brighton, UK)

winter seashore
today even memories
have a jagged edge

Aug. 31, 2024

Comment: Rocks and oysters are also jagged but in the harsh cold, so too with memories.

Claire Thom (Cadiz, Spain)

a fly circles
round and round
my thoughts

Sept. 11, 2024

Comment: We see both a metaphor and a scene where the fly circles around the poet's head.

late evening
only swallows dipping
into the pool

Sept. 21, 2024

Comment: It is a little cold for humans to take a dip, perhaps.

in the shade of a tree
a homeless man
makes his home

Oct. 10, 2024

Comment: What is a "home" but a place to call one's own?

Hans Gerver (Hilversum, Netherlands)

new pond ready
frogs of all ages welcome
please jump in

Sept. 12, 2024

Comment: This alludes to Basho's famous haiku.

Monique Bae (Tokyo, Japan)

The cicadas' cries
drowning out
my own

Sept. 19, 2024

Comment: The poet seems to be in distress.

William Doyle (Kerala, India)

herding the clouds
on the mountain
the good shepherd

Sept. 20, 2024

Comment: The haiku simultaneously gives the image of clouds looking like sheep and sheep looking clouds since "the good shepherd" could be both a mortal man or the Christian God.

Sandip Chauhan (Virginia, USA)

sultry dusk —
a cat spins after
its own tail

Sept. 24, 2024

Comment: Normally one would expect this of a dog but it being a cat instead seems to match well with "sultry dusk."

Milan Rajkumar (Imphal, India)

summer grass ...
the strokes of her long hair
on the canvas

Oct. 7, 2024

Comment: Sitting outside painting, the summer grass is both present as a real entity and acts as a metaphor for her hair.

Ashoka Weerakkody (Panniptiya, Sri Lanka)

daybreak
these stars shall soon hide
in broad daylight

Oct. 12, 2024

Comment: The haiku could be given more depth by stating what day it is about to become. For example, Halloween dawn, yuletide dawn, election day dawn, etc.

Angelo Ancheta (Rizal, Philippines)

windy morning
this list of to-dos
goes on and on

Oct. 14, 2024

Comment: The wind will undoubtedly scatter things
and tidying up will be added to that list!

Richard L Matta (San Diego, California)

giving me
the once over
the beachcomber

Oct. 22, 2024

Comment: The poet feels like the beachcomber is
assessing whether they are worth the effort.

Suraj Nanu (Kerala, India)

landslide rupture
no more screams
of the cicadas

Oct. 28, 2024

Comment: With the trees gone and buried, the cicadas
have fled. The third line causes us to also think of the
human casualties.

Kanchan Chatterjee (Jamshedpur, India)

three, maybe four monks
stop at the bend to discuss ...
full monsoon river

Oct. 29, 2024

Comment: Being monks, they may just be discussing
the river or perhaps something far more profound.

early morning haze ...
the mountain tea pickers
pass by in silence

Dec. 20, 2024

Comment: Serene silence, almost reverence.

Tejendra Sherchan (Kathmandu, Nepal)

August morning ...
the song of a bulbul
garnishes it

Nov. 5, 2024

Comment: This August morning is already as nice as a good meal!

autumn dusk
marigold blooms defy
the falling darkness

Dec. 21, 2024

Comment: Catching the fading light, their orange hues reflect the light until the last moment.

Melissa Dennison (Bradford, England)

as the
rose hips ripen
no longer twenty-one

Nov. 15, 2024

Comment: "Hips" gathers thoughts of female maturity and "rose" of youth.

Serhiy Shpychenko (Kyiv, Ukraine)

a time to scatter
and a time to gather ...
fallen leaves

Nov. 22, 2024

Comment: This poem takes on a new dimension with the poet being from Ukraine.

Emanuele Livietti (Cremona, Italy)

Windy day
the dog still barking
at nothing

Nov. 25, 2024

Comment: The wind is moving things, making noise, and the dog reacts to all of them.

Maria Tosti (Perugia, Italy)

green peaches —
still traveling
with the master's poems

Nov. 26, 2024

Comment: We see both a concrete scene walking through an orchard but also a metaphor. The author's poems will someday hopefully ripen.

Gareth Nurden (Wales, UK)

harvest dew
strumming a spider's web
on its descent

Dec. 12, 2024

Comment: Keen observation.

Chiemi Sagawa (Yamaguchi, Japan)

that bench knows
the loneliness of the stars

Dec. 14, 2024

Comment: No one sits on the bench all night of course. We can feel the empathy the poet feels with the bench.

Gregory Ashbow (Moanda, Gabon)

autumnal gusts
he strafes me
the old oak

Dec. 17, 2024

Comment: Acorns hit the poet at high speed.