

Senryu

A cloud of fat flies
hover near my locker...
old tuna sandwich

Filling the frosty dawn
my father's shouts and bellows:
car won't start...again

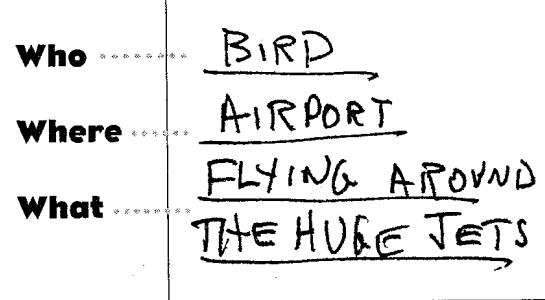
Grumpy bear growl
blends with chirp of rusty hinge:
Dad and Mom snoring

O, unlucky man
while eating shiny apple
you find half a worm

Name _____ Date _____

Observing People

Much of the best poetry comes from close observation of the world around us. A senryu will include “observational” humor about things found in *human* nature, so it’s important to do some careful observing. Look for something that is out of whack, something that might reflect the way people think and act. Here is an observation I made at the airport:



After you have spent some time observing, fill out each of these observation note cards.

Who: _____
Where: _____
What: _____

Use a separate sheet of paper to develop one of your observations into a senryu.

Name _____ Date _____

Brainstorming Pet Peeves

Fill in these blanks with your pet peeves, those petty annoyances that make you want to scream! (Things like: People who talk during a movie, people who try to cut in line, a favorite TV show moved to a different night, noisy mosquitoes.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

How can you turn one of your complaints into a senryu? Remember to be specific. For example, don't write about school lunch, describe a specific meal. Let's say you are writing about "sloppy joes." How can you have some fun with that? You might say something like:

Sloppy joes again...
even the flies leave the cafe
O, lucky flies!

Use the space below to develop one of your pet peeves into a senryu.

Name _____ Date _____

Completing a Senryu

Here are the first two lines of several senryu. Think of a good closing line for each and write it in the space provided.

One warm summer night
I awake to rude music...

Father snoring
At midnight, or can it be...

Babysitter nags
She never goes anyplace...

Snow falling at last
Down Deadman's Hill I race
