

# H. Gene Murtha Memorial Senryu Contest 2023 Edition



Winners and Highly Commended

This contest is run annually by:

*Prune Juice Journal*

*and*

*Failed Haiku*

This year's judge is *Michael Rehling*

## **FIRST PRIZE**

spring outbreak  
a red dragonfly escapes  
from her tulips tattoo

Lakshmi Iyer

## **SECOND PRIZE**

bomb shelter  
the children gather  
around fairytales

Jay FriedenberG

## **THIRD PRIZE**

confluence  
the river  
in us

Jeff Hoagland

## Highly Commended (in no particular order)

pond scum  
calling me  
the ex's name

Rowan Beckett

the security question . . .  
I'm no longer  
me

Scott Mason

drifting off infinity pool

Scott Wiggerman

time capsule  
my past  
resurfaces

Valentina Ranaldi-Adams

dull night  
the shiny doorknob  
of the bar

Mona Jordan

breaking waves  
we talk with the children  
about our ashes

Bruce H. Feingold

alphabet soup  
the strange taste  
of my Chinese name

Antoinette Cheung,

wicker chair  
the intricacy of  
her thigh tattoos

Farah Ali

aging father  
the child and the grown up  
taking turns in him

Nadejda Kostadinova

warm rain a tulip child crowns

anne morrigan

our last goodbye  
my sunburn  
lingers longer

Allyson Whipple

prostate exam  
I remind him  
why I am here

Mark Gilbert

nothing else but  
quietude  
agave leafs

Radostina Dragostinova

reading it as eros  
instead of rose  
my dyslexic heart

Alvin B. Cruz

total eclipse  
a little boy covers  
his dog's eyes

Elisa Theriana.

active shooter  
all the dead pixels  
on their lesson screen

Ron C. Moss

walking encyclopedia  
all I need is a simple  
yes or no

Bona M. Santos

his eyes speak before his tongue one more lie

Kala Ramesh

old furniture  
the air thick  
with old words

Richard Tice

Storm  
of thoughts - the trace  
of a dandelion.

Volker Friebel

In your bathroom  
another girl uses my  
rose-water mouthwash

Felix

we are the main course . . . tectonic plate

Alan S. Bridges

heirloom fly rod  
tracing granddad's footsteps  
river to river

Stephenie Story

still inside,  
the me I once was . . .  
home town

Marietta McGregor

tunnel's end...  
the sunlit face  
of a migrant child

Hifsa Ashraf

under a straw bale  
in the haymow...  
a kitten i never held

Jo Balistreri

hot breakfast...  
tick  
on a cape buffalo

Mark Teaford

online bakery  
I accept  
all cookies

Nick T

a hint  
of lily-of-the-valley  
-my daughter born late

Susan Bonk Plumridge

another sunset  
echoes the silence...  
Old Age Home

Neena Singh

growing cucumber  
she suggests  
we take it slow

Susan Burch

slide guitar ~ ~  
I change my order  
to a full pint

Bob Lucky

to hell and back  
only to find  
here has also gone to hell

Charles Harmon

pear blossoms  
my daughter unexpectedly  
holds my hand

John Pappas



chaos theory  
a butterfly sets off  
the car alarm

Mark Ritchie

listening  
to the crickets  
blind date

Michele L. Harvey

fading moon  
how slow  
a boy licks his candy

Gabriel Awuah Mainoo

having the last word again mountain echo

Srini

poking through  
spent shell casings  
daffodil shoots

Michelle V. Alkerton

spring peepers  
I wish I'd had  
a childhood nickname

Brad Bennett

childhood  
the worn spot in the grass  
under the swing

Joseph P. Wechselberger

cowbird  
no one in school  
that looks like her

Laurie Greer

widow keeping her hair long for him

Caroline Giles Banks

that sensation  
of being watched in the dark...  
white orchid

Suraja Menon Roychowdhury

foetal/fatal the absence of almost-presence

Debbie Strange

storage unit  
i slice open  
my ex

Roberta Beary

mother's day  
he laces  
her shoes

Roberta Beary

Monday morning coffee the strength of Sisyphus

Joe McKeon

grandfather's second family  
revealed  
--DNA test

Nancy Brady

twilight  
the shadows and I  
finally at rest

David Josephsohn

fetal position  
the shape of  
a mother's grief

Jenn Ryan-Jauregui

Google Maps  
the cursor hovers over  
Mom's childhood

Edward Cody Huddleston

New Year  
a pain  
in a new place

Barbara Strang

black coffee—  
he sweetens the terms  
of their divorce

Andrew Markowski

in hospice  
enough strength to hold  
a dandelion

Pat Davis

at the shoe repair counter  
the little old lady  
on tiptoes

Robert Witmer

divorce papers  
only our signatures  
haven't changed

Kathryn Bold

aging is  
getting  
the  
hang  
of  
It

Jenny Fraser

backyard stargazing  
still a stranger  
to the owl

Kelly Sargent

persona grata  
I redact the parts  
that aren't me

Shloka Shankar

ten years of marriage -  
my cat still  
loves me

Capotă Daniela Lăcrămioara

hospital parking lot  
a lone bird  
sings to me

Elizabeth Crocket

first date  
speaking at the same time  
for the third time

Ram Chandran

Easter  
we talk about his time  
in rehab

Gregory Longenecker

black hole...  
a secure home  
for a frog

Kamrun Nahar

allegedly everything true

Jerome Berglund

changing  
his point of view  
his wife's wagging finger

Michael Dylan Welch

autism syndrome  
the slow swaying  
of the hollyhock

Françoise Maurice

mushroom hunt  
only finding  
my attention

Nicholas Klacsanzky

holding it together . . .  
the rusted paperclip  
on his will

Julie Schwerin

the clocks hands  
pointing the way to  
now

Peter Draper

my son  
breaks the rules again...  
lumpy custard

Marilyn Humbert

the part of me  
that is just me  
half moon

Arvinder Kaur

memorial service  
her voice breaking  
on the word joy

Agnes Eva Savich

wind in the pine  
wind in my hair – the secrets  
between us

Cynthia Rowe

pre-wedding vows  
we exchange  
our chat history

Ganesh R.

pieces  
of sunlight  
visiting hours

John S Green

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