

Poetry Series

**Richard Terrify**  
**- poems -**

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## Richard Terrify(April 7 1956)

I am an avid fan of the haiku form of poetry trying to become an adequate writer of them. My background is in art/art history which hopefully, someday, will prove to be beneficial in the aforementioned endeavor. Making the leap from visual to written expression is not without its obstacles. These are my fledgling attempts. Those familiar with haiku are probably used to the seventeen syllable, three line, 5-7-5 format of the traditional Japanese haiku. I have chosen to follow the definition of Jack Kerouac of the 'western' haiku which is a short poem in simple language without poetic trickery meant to make a little picture in an airy graceful way. Both Japanese and western haiku take their imagery from nature as a rule. The main goal, for me, is to say a lot in as few words as necessary.

# Ah! Cherry Tree (Haiku)

ah! cherry tree  
many green leaves  
one wee ladybug

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# Ah! Summer (Haiku)

ah! summer  
glasses of lemonade  
sweat

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# Alone In Moonlight (Haiku)

alone in moonlight  
all is quiet and shadows  
-they are long and black

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# Approaching Storm (Hiaku)

approaching storm  
air crackles, lights flicker  
anticipation

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## At My Garden Chores (Haiku)

at my garden chores  
for MP3 I've no need  
birdsongs-humming bees

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## Bedspring Creaks (Haiku)

bedspring creaks  
as i turn to  
the cooler side

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## Bee In The Clover (Haiku)

bee in the clover  
one by one he wrestles  
thru entire yard

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## Broken Little Duck (Haiku)

broken little duck  
for the moment left without  
a leg to stand on

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## Crisp Spring Morning (Haiku)

crisp spring morning  
out of the belltower  
psalm of bronze

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## Daisies In The Field (Haiku)

daisies in the field  
watch the sun journey  
as they turn

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## Drizzly Morning (Haiku)

drizzly morning  
under the garden shelter  
a sparrow waits

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## Empty Storm Clouds Glow (Haiku)

empty storm clouds glow  
thru clearing skies sparrows fly  
under the rainbow

a challenge hopefully met-from Lisa W.

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## Faintest Light At Dawn (Haiku)

faintest light at dawn  
cool air astir with the sounds  
of bird revelries

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## Far Off Hills Shimmer (Haiku)

far off hills shimmer  
at rest on grass and shadows  
above the moon shines

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## Ginger Cat Prowling (Haiku)

ginger cat prowling  
he cocks his head and pauses  
-chipmunk heart races

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## Grown Plump On Lush Greens (Haiku)

grown plump on lush greens  
in cool shade a groundhog rests  
both hands on belly

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# How Long

you went in april  
i recall  
as clear as  
the ring of a bell  
the loss  
your face  
things about you  
others  
never even knew  
i think about you  
only slightly less  
now  
than i ever did  
before  
and after all this time  
the one thing  
i ask myself  
repeatedly  
remains  
how long  
does the ring resound  
after  
the bell  
is stilled?

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# I Sat Sipping Tea (Haiku)

I sat sipping tea  
and listened for your footsteps  
underneath the moon

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## In Twilight (Haiku)

in twilight  
the birds singing  
-a prayer too

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## Intentions Suspect (Haiku)

intentions suspect  
as i near-with a whistle  
mourning dove takes wing

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## Just A Few Moments (Haiku)

just a few moments  
rays of setting sun burst  
over billowy clouds

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# Just Right Goldy Locks (Haiku)

just right Goldy Locks  
choosing carefully always  
not too hard or soft

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# Kung Fu Master (Haiku)

KUNG FU master  
MAN can he CHU  
out a rhyme

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## Look Here Spider! (Senryu)

look here spider!  
don't suppose you frightened me  
just now

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## Mid April Morning (Haiku)

mid april morning  
bees attend to blooming trees  
dogwood blossoms blush

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## Minnesota Moon (Haiku)

minnesota moon  
spinning brightly sweet and wild  
boundary waters

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## Morning Wind Sound (Haiku)

morning wind sound  
a lone japanese flute  
as blossoms fall

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## Mourning Dove Courting (Haiku)

mourning dove courting  
tries to prove his worthiness  
she is unconvinced

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## On A Blade Of Grass (Haiku)

on a blade of grass  
a beetle sets down and sways  
this spring afternoon

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## On Lacy Queen Anne (Haiku)

on lacy queen anne  
he opens and closes  
his monarch wings

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## On Powerlines (Haiku)

on powerlines  
resting birds write tune  
i cannot sing

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## On This Moonless Night (Haiku)

on this moonless night  
I listen to them-mothwings  
at the window screen

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## One Golden-One Plain (Haiku)

one golden-one plain  
on low branches they set down  
-she lures him higher

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## Persistent Blue Fly (Haiku)

persistent blue fly  
sapphire pest to both delight  
and bother me so

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## Pink Flowers Woven (Haiku)

pink flowers woven  
through pickets of garden gate  
scent of fresh mown grass

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## Puffed Up On Fence Rail (Haiku)

puffed up on fence rail  
in sunshine feathers drying  
this preening robin

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## Rain And A Cool Wind (Haiku)

rain and a cool wind  
offering scant protection  
a raised shirt collar

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## Rain Drenched Street (Haiku)

rain drenched street  
smeared orange brightly-flashes  
of welcome

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## Robin Impatient (Haiku)

robin impatient  
with the pace of my sowing  
-i apologize

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# Rumbles Of Thunder (Haiku)

rumbles of thunder  
empty promises again  
tonight

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# Rustling Underbrush (Haiku)

rustling underbrush  
a moments trepidation  
eased with sparrows song

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## Seemingly Random (Haiku)

seemingly random  
a butterfly arrives at  
his destination

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# Simple Brook Song (Haiku)

simple brook song  
birds dip and flutter in the  
gentle melody

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## Sky Nearly Full (Haiku)

sky nearly full  
one upon another  
billowy cloud

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## Stable Door Ajar (Haiku) \*

stable door ajar  
up moonlit hills creep  
sounds of whales breathing

\*inspired by sean north...and grateful I am!

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## Stiff Neck-Can'T Twist It (Haiku)

stiff neck-can't twist it  
refrain from calling out please  
my name from behind

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# Strung Out Love

As seconds tick off,  
a few duly noted,  
most overlooked,  
none can i master-  
bait on your  
finger crook'd.  
With thoughts  
all entangled  
i stumble and trip-  
bide your time  
while i'm mangled  
as i twitch,  
lured and hooked.

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# The Night Expanse (Haiku)

the night expanse  
but for a sliver of moon  
how empty

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# The Quietude Of (Tanka)

the quietude of  
predawn snowfall pervasive  
but sadly short-lived

plows thunderously undo  
a nightful of natures work

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## They Land-Two Birds (Haiku)

they land-two birds  
side by side-the same limb  
on it they swing

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# Things I Don'T Know About Me

At the time  
I was  
being born,  
did I, at all,  
enjoy  
the ride?  
When death  
comes knocking  
will I soar,  
or will it be  
a downward  
slide?

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# Throughout Cow Pasture (Haiku)

throughout cow pasture  
quietly they stand in groups  
spring shower passing

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## Thru Spring Greenery (Haiku)

thru spring greenery  
flashing yellow brightly are  
two jousting finches

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## To The Weed I Tend (Haiku)

to the weeds i tend  
bird shadows crossing my path  
-butterfly flits by

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## Two Nights Restlessness (Haiku)

two nights restlessness  
now cool breezes once again  
coming out of north

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## Under Shady Trees (Haiku)

under shady trees  
trying to be forgotten  
i sit very still

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## Underfoot (Haiku)

underfoot  
stools for toads  
no longer

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## Voice Of Eighteen Years (Haiku)

voice of eighteen years  
from out of cyber ether  
on grateful ears falls

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