

Agnes Scott College Alumnae Trip to Ireland, June 4-15, 2016

The Limerick, the Six Word Essay, the Haiku

Ireland is a land of writers and other creative people. It is an inspiring place, and our group trip will be an inspiring experience, so we want you to have an outlet for your creativity as we travel. Each day, travelers will be invited to the bus's microphone to read their trip-related **limericks, six word essays, or haiku**. All are welcome (no one is required) to participate in this fun way to comment on what we are seeing, doing, and experiencing as we roll around the island. Your poems and six word essays should be about the trip; humor and insight always welcome. At the end of the trip, we'll award prizes for the best works!

The Limerick

This well-known humorous verse form has been around since the early 18th century, was popularized by Edward Lear in the 19th century, and is thought to have derived its name from the term "Limerick song," a kind of drinking song.

Guidelines

- ♣ five-lines
- ♣ anapestic meter: short, short long; - - /; as in "'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house...
- ♣ rhyme scheme (AABBA)
- ♣ The first, second and fifth or AAA lines are longer than the BB lines
- ♣ often disturbs normal speech patterns as in "There once was girl from Atlanta..."
- ♣ always funny, often bawdy

Some examples...

From the Internet...

Writing a Limerick's absurd,
Line one and line five rhyme in word,
And just as you've reckoned
They rhyme with the second;
The fourth line must rhyme with the third.

There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said, 'It is just as I feared!
Two Owls and a Hen,
Four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard!'

From past trips to Ireland...

There once was a teacher who was obsessed.
By heroes, saints, and fairies she was possessed.
She made her students read Irish verse
In all kinds of strange and chilly places
So grateful this did not lead to unrest!

There was a driver-guide named Dave
Every day on his bus was a rave.
The stereo was rockin',
The girls were a'hoppin'
They showed Ireland how Scotties behave!

The Six Word Essay

Another contest form for the trip is the six word essay or narrative, made famous by Ernest Hemingway with this sad tale: "'For sale' baby shoes, never worn." We hope your six word essays won't be so sad.

Guidelines

- ♣ six words—no cheating!
- ♣ must have something to do with our trip
- ♣ the second part usually sheds new light on the first, adding the humor
- ♣ must be true as opposed to fiction

Some examples

From the Internet...

Found true love. Married someone else.
--Dave Eggers

Streets full of water. Please advise.
--Robert Benchley

Starlet sex scandal. Giant squid involved.
--Margaret Atwood

From past trips to Ireland...

The storytellers. Such shoes to fill.
--Alexis Henry

Hard cobblestones. Long walk. Good dinner.
--Jillian Speck

Heir wanted Kilkenny Castle, males only.
--Ana Robledo

Lissadell House: dead animals watching you.
--Ana Robledo

Haiku

Your third option is the haiku, an ancient Japanese poetic form.

Guidelines

- ♣ seventeen syllables
- ♣ three phrases or lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables
- ♣ two images or ideas with a “cutting word” between them to offset the comparison or connection
- ♣ often have a reference to nature
- ♣ must have something to do with our trip

Some examples (but yours don’t have to be serious)

From the Internet...

From time to time
The clouds give rest
To the moon-beholders.
--Matsuo Bashō

An old silent pond...
A frog jumps into the pond,
splash! Silence again.
--Matsuo Bashō

Over-ripe sushi,
The Master
Is full of regret.
--Yosa Buson

From past trips to Ireland...

Good Music and soup
At The Larches Irish pub
We enjoy the dance
--Cer Tluang

Dear Rain: Ireland
is flooding, and our
bus cannot part waves.
--Sydney Love

Calm surface masks pain
River Foyle, what have you seen?
Waves lap to the shore.
--Jillian Speck