



101

A Collection of Palindrome Haiku

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101 is a strange and useless work of fiction. Its poems are entirely fictional and any resemblance to real people, events or gargantuan cricetine deities is entirely coincidental. Certain of the haiku comprise fictionalised transformations of allusions to the names, terms, ideas and themes the author associates with the works of various artists and scientists and are thus fictions inspired by, rather than accurately descriptive of, their subjects. The purpose of this book is to showcase the art of palindromic manipulation; its poems' subjects are used as a basis for such manipulations, and are not the primary focus of this book.

Introduction

This short collection features 101 palindromic haiku, organised according to a geometric property of the titular number: Both a prime and a palindrome (and a strobogrammatic number, which is to say that, in certain typefaces, it appears the same when viewed upside-down), 101 is also a centred decagonal number, as illustrated on the front cover (which includes all 101 poems).

A centred decagonal number is one that can be represented by a single dot surrounded by decagons of dots, with each successive decagon containing an additional dot on each of its sides. Following the formula $5n^2+5n+1$, the first five centred decagonal numbers are 1, 11, 31, 61, and 101 (whose outer decagon has a side length of 4 dots, or, in this case, 4 poems).

Structured by this periodic representation, *101* consists of five main sections, followed by a brief addendum. First, there is the central haiku, *Autumn*. While most modern haiku obey the form's syllabically palindromic 5-7-5 structure, its traditional thematic constraints are often ignored (as they mostly are throughout this book). Befitting its central location, *Autumn* respects both the *kigo* (seasonal reference) and the *kiru* ('cutting' – the haiku's equivalent of the sonnet's *volta*).

The second section consists of eulogistic haiku written for 10 figures from the arts and sciences and their works. These haiku, unlike the others in this collection, are '2-letter palindromes'; that is, they are palindromic not by letter, but by pairs of letters (as in, "the ashes' sheath", where 'th', 'ea', 'sh' and 'es' are the units of palindromism). The remaining decagons respectively present 20 haiku in themed pairs, 30 short stories, and 40 small essays and 'visions' (though, I concede, the distinction between story and vision is at times somewhat arbitrary, owing more to feel than to strict criteria).

Following the poems of the outer decagon are two 'integrations'; that is, palindromes built from fragments of the decagonal haiku and tied together by additional material. The first is a palindromic sonnet written in iambic pentameter and obeying the Shakespearean rhyme scheme. Since 101 is the atomic number of Mendeleevium, the element named for the discoverer of chemical periodicity, the sonnet obeys the further constraint of including as many allusions to elements, ions, and molecules as possible. The second integration is a short (comedy-) horror story, which uses palindromism's unusual rhythms and images to create a hallucinatory world. The two integrations each contain exactly 101 words.

The Central Haiku

Autumn

Relapse, calm idyll...

Autumn words drown mutually –
dim laces paler.

10 2-Letter Tributes

Poe (The Tell-Tale Heart)

Time: Ten. A made tear.
He let all tell-tale hearted
emanate, met I.

Picasso

Go seas, glow also,
as I cap a Picasso,
a low glass ego.

Dali (Swans Reflecting Elephants)

Answer: Ink must 'to
or fro'. I remake, mirror,
foot, tusk – miner swan?

Lovecraft

One mad ego. Rat!
I, man, re-animator
(e.g. a demon).

Einstein (The Photoelectric Effect)

Intense, ionic...
O, fumes that go at the sum
of icon Einstein...

Van Gogh

The ardour stays red.
Golden are seas, serenade.
Old grey stars our death.

Carroll (Alice in Wonderland)

Alice P: Felines
a metaphor, I morph tame,
sane life – epical.

Dirac

O, rate ropes on it,
if Dirac's radii fit
one's operator.

Darwin (The Theory of Evolution)

Ape, marsh seen, adapt.

Darwin: One vine now I art.

'Dap' a dense share. Map.

Kafka

Aims sail, so age. Great,

a wall seals a law. A tree,

gag soil... Samsa, I...

20 in Pairs

Swords I (Broad)

Slate my medal broad.
Negate my met agenda
or blade my metals.

Swords II (Sharp)

Drowsy blade, pare it.
A pin's stuck cuts snip a tier,
a pedal by sword.

Planets I (Venus)

Pure Venus, asleep,
slid off a daffodil's peels
a sun ever up.

Planets II (Mars)

Strap Mars so! Belts act.
Ceres peeks as keeps erect.
Castle, boss ramparts!

The Periodic Table I (Gold)

No end, log nitro'...
No gradual deed, laud argon
or tin, gold, neon...

The Periodic Table II (Iron)

No; next is iron...
Or oblate metal? Boron?
Or is it xenon...?

Fame I (Emanate Stardom)

'Stemanate ardom.'
!*Siren*! (Oops... Spoonerism...
O, drat!) 'Set a name.'

Fame II (Cinema)

Edit: To ham life!
Cinema fees did see fame.
Nice film. A hot tide...

Alfred Jarry I (Ubu)

Doom a royal, Pa!
I or Ubu? *Ubu Roi*.
A play or a mood?

Alfred Jarry II (Faustroll)

Rot code to *merdre*;
'He' grab. A sieve is a barge.
Herd remote, Doctor.

Genes I (Poetic)

Lionised, a gene
revolts: "Erupt, purest love,
renegades in oil..."

Genes II (Scientific)

Set a gene, genome.
DNA tees sexes, see.
Tandem, one gene gates.

Univocalic I (e, Perec and the Oulipo)

Deft bed, test sentence.
Repel, lest sell, e, Perec!
Net, nest-set, debt-fed.

Univocalic II (a, Abstraction)

Ward asks, "Abstract fad?"
Paths arc, trap apart. Crash! Tap.
Daft carts bask sad, raw.

Physical Sciences I (Physics)

Deeps' task raps time. Snort
celestial plaits! Electrons
emit sparks at speed.

Physical Sciences II (Chemistry)

Erased I morbid
nitrates. A bar, a base tar.
"Tin dibromides are!"

Fishing I (Freshwater)

Laminate water.

Refasten nets. *A ferret?*

A wet animal...

Fishing II (Saltwater)

Ail haddock, cod,

a goby, a ray, boga.

Dock: cod, dahlia...

Sports I (Golf)

Draw? Nine metal, see.

Trap! Nip at a tap-in par.

Tees late? Men, inward...

Sports II (Cricket)

Spin maestros? No dim

nurdle. If I field, run!

Mid-on, sort. Seam nips.

30 Stories

Lycanthropy

Flow as eyes lupine...
Moon-met system – no omen?
I pulse, yes, a wolf.

Prophecy

Do glib regrets, no?
Maybe...I do die by a
MONSTER GERBIL GOD.

Sci-Fi Short

Net deep sprawl. Air troop...
A spacecraft farce caps a poor
trial (warpspeed ten).

The City

Go flat, urbanised.
A cradle here held arcades
in a brutal fog.

Vampires vs Special Effects

Rise, sire! Consider
me a ham? I'm a *haem*. Red
is no cerise, sir!

Drummers vs Drums

Smote, yell I, 'Murder!'
Answer, cymbals! Slab my crew.
Snare drum? I'll eye toms.

Sunward

Red, nude pools eyed as
sunward speed. A deep's drawn us:
Sad eyes looped under...

The Tide

Sure vessel, ohm-rowed...
I trek, sir, by brisker tide.
Wormholes sever us.

Oh, Cellar!

Oh, cellar! Evoke
esoteric ire, to seek,
overall, echo...

Daemons

Ward – or two daemons
live droopy. My! Poor devils!
No meadow trod raw.

The Origins of Language and Fashion

Name vacates rock law.
Tacit, a hat I catwalk...
Corset a caveman?

Extraction

Meet. Seek a totem.
I take. (Rue a 'eureka'?)
Time to take esteem.

Demos

Some duo yodel.
I'm spotting. I sign it. Top!
Smile! Do you demos?

Bats that Sing

Bats, set on sonar,
pose, grid a radar, a dirge.
Sopranos' notes stab...

A Political Thriller

Star comedy met
over us, mid-eyed, I'm sure...
Vote, my democrats!

Fat Arachnid with a Blowtorch

Be with girth? Girdle.
Wire dips level. Spider: I
weld right, right? I web.

Help!

Evil an ample
host, a castle pelts a cat.
So help! (Man alive...)

Memory

Sir, a pose by a
memory knit inky Rome,
maybe so Paris.

The Labyrinth

Daedalus, nine pass...
I, Minos' son. I miss a
peninsula, dead.

Red

Red rooted a fire,
hot, igniting I to her...
I fade to order.

Slumber

Rats... a top spaniel...
bats! As my gym's a stable,
I nap, spot a star.

Eyes

Pupils dilate. Lit,
eye's iris I rise – yet I
let a lid slip up.

The Bad Athlete

Desire my loped step!
No lynx, I mix nylon pets –
depolymerised.

Fraudulent Psychics

Crash! Tape let a seer
cede gasbag gab, 'sage decrees' –
a telepath's arc.

Alcohol

Murmur, night... Or, by
menu, taste go gets a tune...
My broth: gin, rum, rum.

Poor Ornaments

'B'-rod. Lone dragon.
No care, gnome-monger. A con.
No garden. Old orb.

Pirates

Sleek starts a map... O,
help pirates set a ripple.
Hop a mast, rats, keels.

Hamlet

Burnish? To be not?
At fardel or deed, role draft.
Atone, both sin, rub!

Slate

Slate: Pliant lips tier...
I felt to bottle fire.
It spilt nail petals.

The Death of Mice

Trap! A snap emits
a yell, astride dirt's alley,
as time pans apart.

40 Essays and Visions

Bad Constellations

Noir or ailed Ursa.
O, card I Draco (as rude).
Liar Orion.

Volcanoes

Plane volcano, drowse...
Its sensuousness ties word
on a cloven alp.

Mathematics of a Frozen Lake

Slam ice, dynamic.
A bad loch. Cold abaci –
many decimals.

The Trawler

Trawl at sea-glade, lit.
Gull, listen... Noon nets I'll lug.
Tiled algae stalwart.

Gaia

A Ge model warps,
a red nude suffused under
a sprawled omega.

Rivalry

No side? Did Tesla
edge by rub? Bury? Beg, deal
set? Did Edison?

Cyberart

No 'net for a sea.
Cyberart? O, not rare. By
Caesar! Often on...

Magnets

Sages use magnets
to oscillate metallic
soots – ten games use gas.

Selfless

Decide radical
pseudonyms. Selfless? My, no!
Dues, placid, are diced.

Ghosts

Demand airy mists...
Oh, ghost! In units? Oh, ghosts!
I myriad named.

Palindromes

Too rare... Ah! Play, mage!
Modes, reversed, omega my
alpha, era, root.

DNA

Time-risen ego...
Two helixes exile how?
To genes I remit.

Zeus Speaks

Me, Hades, Ares...
(Dogs all!) Apollo, Pallas...
Gods erased (ahem).

Norse Creation Myth

Dumb, before vocal
Aesir (oh, Thor!), I seal a
cover of ebb, mud.

The Golden Ratio

So, I tarred loci...
Gold, light a path, gild logic,
older ratios...

Synchrotrons

Yarn: Upset, aid a
rode proton. O, torpedo!
Radiate, spun ray!

Constrained Writing

Den I art's nocturne...
Lots are drawn on, warder – a
stolen rut constrained.

Fabliau

Bird, I say, 'Know self!'
Fabliau, quail, baffles...
(Wonky as I'd rib...)

The Avant-Garde

Let omega-rots'
anima jazz a jam in
a storage motel.

Pizza, Potato

Pizza, potato...
Got a moth's ash tomato?
Got a topaz zip?

Wormholes vs Black Holes

Time-space. But, Rosen,
I'm 'nil'-warps, a sprawl in mines –
or tube-caps emit?

Cosmitragics

Gnarl art's ash. Cope now.
As dials I mislaid saw on,
epochs, astral, rang.

Edgar Allan

My pit, case, opera...
Spare tales tell. Let's elate. Raps
are Poe's act. I, Pym.

See Bees

See both silk cities.
Pill, eye no honey ellipse.
I, ticklish to bees...

Dew

Dew's no illiberal
game. Open a sane poem,
a glare billions wed.

Perception

Eyed, I assign in
nuclei raw Ariel –
cunning is said eye.

Midi

Midis outrival:
A gasp. It tips a gala.
Virtuosi dim.

Questionable Horses

Eponym: Gypsy?
Bred, lade pony? No pedal?
Derby's pygmy? Nope...

Cowards

We fear, bet, revere...
Hero's draw? O, coward sore!
Here, vertebrae few...

The Mermaid

Nurse! So, hydrated,
a mermaid I am remade...
Tardy hoses run...

On the Old Oppressors' Performance

Spans dwell. Lords are posed.
One tyrant, nary ten odes.
Operas droll. Lewd snaps.

Yesterday

Elapsed is a past
I tell lies. I rise. I'll let
it sap asides, pale.

Heavy Metal Carpentry

Looted, I brace sure...
Wardrobe wood do? O, web! (Or
drawer?) Use carbide tool...

Sun God on a Cloth

Rag icon: Tube Sol.
Chaos emits time. So, ah,
close, but no cigar...

Premonition of Rebirth

Ran ultra-natal,
I, a wax elf, flex a wail
at an art lunar...

Cards

Diamond a play? Or
nine, two, six? I sow ten in.
Royal pad – no maid?

Zombie

Set on, torn, I gnash.
Self-gnaw. Spirit, I rip. Swang,
flesh sang in rot-notes.

Comets

Burned dust. O, recite...
Mock radii, dark comet!
Ice, rot sudden, rub.

Poets

Too, haste operate...
'Bah! Play me my alphabet.'
Are poets a hoot?

The Death of Moths

Garb moths in a gaped,
artless, a too-tassel-trade,
paganish tomb rag.

Integrations

The Chemist: A Palindrome Sonnet

Debut no end. Log nitrogen. O, grade!
Wet? Stop. Nod arsenic-lace. Carbides I art;
can actinides I morph? Cope, wolfram-laid.
Put xenon late. Map arcs. No rite's name cart.
Bromides net silica, run mad puce tone.
Did oil warp sodic? I sum nitrates in.
O, brace, save boron. I, man – wonky, known –
amino robe-vase, carbonise tar, tin.
Music! I do sprawl iodide. Note: cup.
Damn, uracil is tense. Dim orb, trace man!
Set iron-scrap – a metal, no? Next up:
Dial, mar flow; 'epoch' (promised in it) can...
 Act raised, I brace calcines, radon (pot-stewed),
 argon (e.g.) or tin, gold, neon (tubed).

The Ritual: A Palindrome Fable

Do glib regrets, no? Maybe...
 I dine; drag a food. A slid-off adder, pure Venus asleep, keeps me totally dire, dips a flow, as
eyes' lupine volcano-rock cuts a stare killed. Omega no omen, one vile siren, orc, devil, senile saboteur,
two daemons laud I, 'Serene Gem', draw a deed; award me gene residuals.
 No meadow true to baselines lived.
 "Crone, rise – liven one moon-age model!" Like rats, a stuck corona, cloven, I pulse – yes – a
wolf.
 A spider idyll. A totem's peek peels a sun ever up.
 Red daffodils. Ado of a garden.
 I die by a monster gerbil god.