

# Campfire Flames Reach Up: Haiku and Senryu



**campfire flames reach up—haiku and senryu** by Dan Lukiv

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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The flickering flames of a campfire are a hypnotic sight, dancing and leaping in the darkness. They evoke a sense of warmth, comfort, and connection. For centuries, poets have been drawn to the beauty of campfire flames, using them as inspiration for their work.

Two of the most popular Japanese poetic forms, haiku and senryu, are particularly well-suited to capturing the essence of campfire flames. Haiku are unrhymed, three-line poems with a specific syllable count (5-7-5). Senryu are similar to haiku, but they are more humorous and often focus on human foibles.

In this article, we will explore the campfire flame through the lens of haiku and senryu. We will examine how poets have used these forms to capture the beauty, warmth, and humor of campfire flames.

## Haiku

Haiku are often used to capture the beauty of nature. The following haiku by Basho, one of the most famous haiku poets, captures the essence of campfire flames:

*Flames dance and flicker, Casting shadows on the trees, A warm, inviting glow.*

This haiku captures the visual beauty of campfire flames, as well as their warmth and inviting glow. The flames are personified as dancers, which gives them a sense of life and movement. The shadows cast by the flames create a sense of depth and mystery, adding to the overall atmosphere of the poem.

Here is another haiku by Issa, another famous haiku poet, that captures the warmth and comfort of campfire flames:

*Campfire embers glow, Warming hearts on a cold night, A haven in the dark.*

This haiku focuses on the emotional impact of campfire flames. The embers are described as "glowing," which suggests that they are warm and inviting. The flames provide a sense of comfort and safety on a cold night, creating a haven in the darkness.

## **Senryu**

Senryu are often used to capture the humor and absurdity of human behavior. The following senryu by Shiki, a famous senryu poet, captures the humor of trying to roast marshmallows over a campfire:

*Marshmallows on sticks, Roasting too close to the flame, Crispy on the outside.*

This senryu is humorous because it captures the frustration of trying to roast marshmallows over a campfire. The marshmallows are roasted too close to the flame, which makes them crispy on the outside. The poet uses the word "crispy" to create a sense of irony, as marshmallows are typically supposed to be soft and fluffy.

Here is another senryu by Buson, another famous senryu poet, that captures the absurdity of trying to put out a campfire:

*Trying to put out The campfire with his bare hands, He gets his fingers burned.*

This senryu is humorous because it captures the folly of trying to put out a campfire with one's bare hands. The poet uses the word "burned" to create a sense of irony, as it is obvious that the man will get burned if he tries to put out the fire with his bare hands.

Haiku and senryu are two of the most popular Japanese poetic forms. They are well-suited to capturing the beauty, warmth, and humor of campfire flames. By examining how poets have used these forms to capture the essence of campfire flames, we can gain a deeper appreciation for these poetic forms and the beauty of the natural world.

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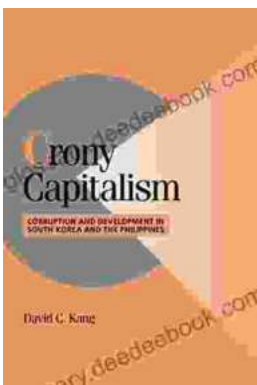


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