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 cricine 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 Mendelevium, 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)
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 (warppeed 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.
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
drive 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.