

## Robert Price

66 First Place #3 • Brooklyn, NY 11231 • 718.855.8548 • 718.855.8574 (fax)  
www.eggplant.org • robert@eggplant.org

Basho, Japan's best known haiku poet said, "In writing, do not let a hair's breath separate yourself from the subject." He also stated, "You can learn about the pine only from the pine, and about the bamboo from the bamboo."

An old pond...  
a frog leaps in,  
the sound of water.

*Basho*

In the spring rain:  
talking to each other  
go raincoat and umbrella.

*Buson*

Autumn mosquitoes  
buzz me, bite me...see, I am  
long prepared for death.

*Shiki*

On the temple bell  
a butterfly has settled  
and is sleeping.

*Buson*

On a bare branch  
a crow has settled...  
autumn evening.

*Basho*

As the festival dancing dies,  
the sound of the wind in the pine trees  
and the insects' voices.

*Sogetsu*

Above the noise  
of the gale in the pine-trees  
the voices of the frogs.

*Joso*

In the spring rain:  
talking to each other  
go raincoat and umbrella.

*Buson*

Come  
orphan sparrow  
and play with me.

*Issa*

The mud-snail  
crawls two or three feet,—  
and the day is over.

*Gomei*

Calm and serene,  
the frog gazes  
at the mountains.

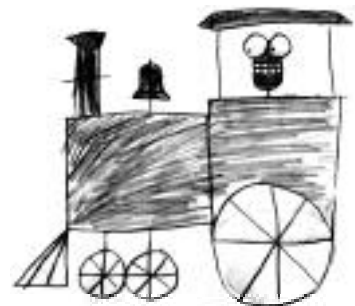
*Issa*

Now making friends  
now scared of people,—  
the baby sparrow.

*Onitsura*

Little sparrow  
mind, mind out of the way,  
Mr. Horse is  
coming.

*Issa*



Mice in their nest  
squeak in response  
to the young sparrows.

*Basho*

The returning wild geese  
mingle  
with the pilgrims.

*Ransetsu*

Behind a line of warehouses,  
where the swallows  
fly up and down.

*Boncho*

The pheasant scratches  
its beautiful face  
with its spurs.

*Kikaku*

The man who says,  
“My children are a burden,”—  
there are no flowers for him.

*Basho*

Smoke from cooking rice  
towers above the hamlet:  
the voice of the hototogisu!

*Issa*

The fawn  
shakes off the butterfly,  
and sleeps again.

*Issa*

The butterfly,  
even when pursued,  
never appears in a hurry.

*Garaku*

Japanese haiku usually has a seasonal word or some reference to nature in them. To build understanding, everyone—students and teachers—could do a haiku every day from something they see or do during the day. They could share them with each other, and/or post them in the room and around the school.

A beautiful kite  
rose from  
the beggar’s hovel.

*Issa*

Falling to earth,  
the kite had  
no soul.

*Kubonta*

The old man  
hoeing the field,  
has his head-gear on crooked.

*Kito*

The man  
hoeing in the field,  
seems motionless.

*Kyorai*

The rice-seedling bed;  
a small snake crosses  
in the evening sunshine.

*Oemaru*

The crows of the wood  
are gazing down  
at the rice-seedling field.

*Shiko*

The man in the field;  
all day long  
the uguisu were far away.

*Buson*

The uguisu walked  
in the garden,  
a realm uninhabited by man.

*Shoha*

