

Hello! I'm glad you've come back to see me because I have a lot more to tell you about my life as a writer's dog. Right now, she is working on a series of articles for the "Not Exactly Shakespeare" pages of this website, beginning with a poem called the Haiku. She sits for hours trying to find the right word, the right image, the right phrase. Humans. They make everything more complicated than it needs to be.

Let me see if I get this: the haiku is a three-line poem with the syllable count 5-7-5. It doesn't even rhyme! So what is she fussing about? Here let me show you how easy it is with some Doggie Haiku...



See? It's easy. Just write what you know.

My writer, known to me as Wintergreen because of her scent, would be surprised by my forays into poetry. But it is not so strange. All of life is poetry. Our hearts beat out a rhythm. The mouths of humans and animals alike play with sound, repeating calls and yips and howls and words that echo and rhyme. Nature moves in a cyclical fashion with each season repeating like a refrain. And nothing is more eloquent than the weather -- grey skies speak of melancholy, lightning and thunder of anger, snow of silence.

Wintergreen is fond of quoting people to support her ideas and place them within a wider context -- well I can do that too. Lucille Clifton once said that poetry "is a matter of life, not just a matter of language." And so even a labrador can fit within its framework. So can all of nature and I believe this is why Wintergreen often turns to birds and animals and trees and seasons for inspiration when writing her poems. I have noticed, however, that she has yet to write a poem about me. This is a grievous oversight. And so as she sits there, pen in hand, gazing out of the window, I will tug at her attention. Soon she will realise that the subject of her next poem is right in front of her, wagging his tail....



Hi, I'm back. My efforts have been successful. After a bout of hurried typing, she laid this sheet among her notes...



...a fitting ode for a faithful friend. Hope to see you again soon for the next instalment of "Bailey's Blog."