

HOW REPORTERS WORK / JENNIFER'S MUSINGS



Let's hear your punctuation haiku

by JENNIFER MOODY on Sep 25, 2010 • 7:16 pm

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The Princesses are into haiku these days.

Little Princess was asked to write one on a favorite food as part of a day camp this summer at Oregon State University. As a family, we now quote it regularly:

"Pork chops, Shake 'n' Bake.
Better than barbecue sauce,
Although that's good, too."

Slightly Older Princess was inspired by a trip to Ripley's Believe it or Not down on the Newport waterfront. She mailed a copy of her haiku to the attraction:

"The dark freaks me out,
The hover-floor is awesome.
Believe it or not!"

The front-desk folks liked it so much they sent her back two free tickets. I sense a trip to visit shrunken heads in our future.

I mention this mostly because, to my everlasting sorrow, I somehow failed to observe National Punctuation Day this past Friday, Sept. 24. I did mark it unknowingly by coming to the newsroom, one of the last bastions against improper grammar of all kinds, but it's not the same as actually knowing what you're doing.

This year, the organizers of [National Punctuation Day](#) asked for punctuation-related entries in a haiku contest. It's not too late to enter; you can send in a haiku clear up to Sept. 30.

Some of my favorites of the getting-started suggestions:

"Which colon to use?
Colon or semi-colon?
I'll use a comma."

"Exclamation points
And question marks together?
Only in comics."

"i'm ee cummings
i break punctuation rules.
that's what poets do."

I'm still trying to think of a good entry for myself. So far, here's all I've got:

"Career writers use
Good punctuation always,
Even when texting."

Or,

"Who still notices
Improper punctuation?
My editor does."

You got a better one? Lay it down.



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We can't wait to see what first responders do with it.

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