

British Haiku Society Tanka Awards 2014/15

First Prize: Catherine Redfern

fathers' race
arms and legs flailing
hearts pumping
even now, even here,
it matters

bg: From the first reading, this tanka was memorable and convincing. It says so much, so simply.

rw: This was chosen by both judges independently for first place. It has an easy flow of words with a touch of humour, poking gentle fun at the human condition. Its simplicity gives it added strength.

Second Prize: Linda Jeannette Ward

through the face
of an aged war veteran
the fighter pilot speaks
 – the sound of soft thunder
 quivers a thin moon

bg: The contrasting images of the night sky made fluid as thunder announces a storm and the traces of the younger man detected at times in the veteran's face are delicately counterpoised. The sound of gunfire is suggested, but subtly.

rw: The last two lines create an arresting and haunting image to link with the first three.

Joint Third Prize: Vanessa Proctor

harbour bridge
the expanse of cold steel
above and below
so many years together
so much space between us

rw: The imagery of the first three lines linking with the last two is striking.

bg: A well-structured tanka, balanced to suit the subject.

Joint Third Prize: Doreen King

stunned
by the lily's whiteness
i search
for another way
to say goodbye

rw: The tanka reflects the inadequate way we try to deal with bereavement after the poet's sudden reaction to seeing white lilies.

bg: So often funeral formalities seem unrelated to the deceased person we have loved. Elegantly and sparsely expressed, this tanka conveys a depth of emotion most readers will recognise.

Highly Commended:

Joanna Ashwell
Linda Jeannette Ward

Commended:

Catherine Redfern
Judit K Hollos
John Soules
Claire Everett
Debbie Strange

Also selected for the anthology:

D V Rozic	Claire Everett	an'ya
Kevin Goldstein Jackson	David Terelinck	Mark Warren
Beth McFarland	John Soules	Vanessa Proctor
Chen-ou Liu	John Barlow	David Cox
Peter Butler	Marilyn Humbert	Rebecca Brown
Susan King	Alison Williams	Joanna Ashwell
Linda Jeannette Ward	Elaine Riddell	David Davies
Lee Jackson	Tracy Davidson	Dawn Bruce
Robert Witmer	Debbie Strange	Carole Harrison
David J Kelly	Tim Gardiner	

An anthology entitled "Soft Thunder", produced as a result of this competition will be available from the Membership Secretary, Frank Williams, at a cost of £4.00, including p&p from 25 May 2015. Address and email details can be found on the BHS contacts page: <http://britishhaikusociety.org.uk/contact-us/>