These haiku were composed by students in “Introduction to Japanese Literature.” The students were asked to compose haiku about familiar places, either at home or here at the University of Pittsburgh, and to include photos or headnotes as they saw fit. The following collection is just a sample of the work of our talented poets!

A shining gemstone
Cradled by our three rivers:
My heart, my true home.

City of rivers
Does the sun ever come out?
Where do I go now?

(The Deer Path)
My small hands release,
The toad plunges, belly first,
The sound of water.

Haiku in response to my hometown, Jinan, which is a beautiful Chinese city with rich historical backgrounds.

Four floors full of books
with students piled inside
immersed in essays

Belt of mists and clouds,
Are the secret and beauty
of grand Mountain Tai.

(Alison Sabolcik)
(Yuan Gao)

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To be Rocked to Sleep
by the Lullaby of Cars
Speeding Down the Street

Spanning the buildings
The crows congregate as one
To keep warm tonight

(Kristopher Hobel)
(Katelyn Pellegrino)

PNC Park
Intense summer games
The buildings colored with light
The sight warms the heart

(Andrew Lynn)
Philadelphia,
Lovingly referred to as
“Home of the Cheesesteaks”

Past the Art Museum,
Biking down through the darkness,
Alone with my thoughts

(Cindy Dinh)

I have lived in the same apartment building for two years now, and for some reason a massive amount of crows have decided to suddenly lay claim to the trees outside. They arrived in early November and have been there ever since. Walking to class at dusk when they appear most active, I am torn between feelings of humor at the ridiculous number of crows, and terror at the ridiculous number of crows. I think these crows, as creatures of death, are emblematic of both the weather and my sentiments going into finals week.

The crows’ piercing caws—
Leaves swirl in the winter wind.
“Screw you, December.”
(James Westbay)

This haiku is a memory from last spring when it was a nice day on the lawn underneath the Cathedral of Learning. That day and the view is still a very vivid memory.

The grass on my neck
Tickles as I gaze upward
At the very peak
   (Aidan Obritz)

Can’t find the bus stop.
Downtown — I’m so confused now.
Sixth and Wood, I’m lost.
   (Sydney Leslie)
Finished the exams
I finally graduated
Stay in or move out
   (Wenqian Yang)

Home (Easton)
Easton to Cali.
I now learn that home is not always about place.
   (Ben McClymont)

The Tunnel
A long stretch of dark
Reaching the end I see it
The light of Pittsburgh
   (Oliver Jia)

Bridges
Prometheus tied
to three rivers, bleeding
innards: cars, repeat
   (Nick Zak)
Colorful blossoms
Fragrance hangs thick in the air
Beauty under glass
(Cassandre Dawe)

The incline
Suspended ascent
Winter air frosts the city
Illuminated
(Laura Patterson)

Stewartsville, NJ
The mighty pine tree
Stands firmly in the front yard,
Covered in fresh snow
(Marc Damato)

Glistening snowflakes
falling slowly from the sky
winter wonderland
(Pei-Hsuan Lin)

The Duquesne Incline (Pittsburgh)
Life seems different
When you’re on top of the world.
(Or at least Pittsburgh)
(Ben McClymont)

Butler, PA
Within my village
An ancient church is set
Holding out time
(Cody Karch)

In the window of
the warm local bakery.
Christmas cookies sit.
(Sean Poorman)

The Tunnels are closed
Potholes everywhere you look
Construction ahead
(Mike Fitzgerald)

Fallingwater
Fabulous design
A house standing on water
I want to live there
(Yonghui Li)

Flying back and forth
A second home in Japan
Don’t you love sushi?
(Shih-Hao Chu)

My Grandmother’s House in Lawrenceville
Summer’s heat simmers
Smells of fresh pierogis spread.
I can’t wait to eat
(Andrea Radziminski)
Pittsburgh
Black and yellow hues
Bleed from our proud, steadfast veins.
Go Steelers! Go Pens!
(Cecilia Chi)

The swings in the park
That Korean restaurant
Home is nostalgia
(Alex Chew)

Hometown
The high bell tower
Cast a long shadow on cars
Majestic figure
(Wenhua Wu)

Victory Lights
Distant in the sky
Could I be seeing this right?
Triumphant again!
(Marisa DiGiulio)

Dusk
Sun prepares to rest
Gives the world one final show
Fire in the sky
(Marisa DiGiulio)

The lips of the sky
Pull back into grey clouds and
Send light streaming down
(Christine Chidron)

It’s cold all day long
It’s daytime half of the year
City of bridges
(Gustavo Ayes)

Hometown (Philly Suburbs)
Forest trails in parks
My dog pees on a small bush
Satisfied, he runs
(Tracy Lam)