

The 6 Word Story Cynthia さん (2020/10/29)

The 6 word story is very similar to writing haiku. You try to capture a moment or tell a story. There is the set-up, then an ending that might change the meaning. You can only use 6 words, but the words can have any number of syllables. You do not need a large English vocabulary to do this activity. After you pick your words, you can just look them up.

There is a famous story about the origins of the 6 word story. Legend has it that Ernest Hemingway wrote this story in response to a challenge.

For sale:
baby shoes,
never worn.

– Ernest Hemingway

January 25, 2021

Dear Story Writers,

The busyness of the holidays is long over, so now is the time for me to catch up on personal emails. Thank you for your patience. I enjoyed reading all the 6 word stories. Many thanks for sending them! As you will see, well-chosen words can have a big impact. My comments are under each story. I wrote what came into my mind when I read it.

All the best,
Cynthia Haskell

(A)

Stop raining

For aged – people

Walk – Rally

Covid-19

[I liked use of dashes and 3 lines to separate the words instead of joining them. It allows me to combine them in slightly different ways and get different meanings.]

(B)

Ginkgo leaves shining most before leaving.

[It is a glimpse at the ephemeral nature of beauty and life. Nice touch using ginkgo leaves instead of cherry blossoms.]

Ginkgo leaves fluttering down this evening.

[A private, reflective moment on the back porch at the end of the day.]

Pink flowers mother-in-law loved bloom still.

[A reminder that those we care for are there for us in our memories. I think the writer and mother-in-law had a good relationship.]

Sky is only blue without limitations.

[This makes me feel expansive.]

Hold secret, or truth is hatched.

[I picture myself holding a egg symbolizing a secret truth. I must guard it carefully until it is time for it to come out.]

(C)

Intelligent, curious, considerate, words describe me.

[Usually we use words like this to describe others. Having the 'me' at the end was a nice surprise.]

Strong sunshine, cool temperature, what season?

[Seems like an innocent question at first, but my next thought is of global warming.]

(D)

Passing silently, wearing mask, using iPhone.

[During this time of isolation, technology can make us more isolated or more connected.]

Covid-19 tells me daily life matters.

[This can be understood two ways. 1. Our everyday practices can have a big impact. 2. Big threats can help give us focus and appreciate the joys of everyday life.]

Covid-19 has an end like tunnels.

[A hopeful thought.]

(E)

"Golden birds?" "No, floating ginkgo leaves."

[A glimpse at two friends sharing an experience.]

The boy's smile; his brother's jealousy.

[Often some disgruntlement happens between siblings.]

The baby's smile; his brother's jealousy.

[This is a little bit scary. Will the baby be alright?]

Will happiness fill this new diary?

[This communicates a sense of hopeful longing.]

Uttered less than six words today.

[Social distancing + quarantine = no reason to speak. Nice use of the word "uttered".]

"She died." A call at 6 am.

[I thought "Oh no", then "Of course". It is the unexpected, early morning call that often brings bad news.]

(F)

Jump puppy Jump! Catch your dream!

[I see a golden cocker spaniel puppy joyfully playing. It makes me happy. Maybe if I try jumping higher, I can catch my dream too!]

Big smile, sad smile, always welcome.

[Who is smiling? What makes for a sad smile? Who is always welcome? These are powerful questions for the reader. This story has depth.]

Baby palms, Autumn leaves, Amazing world.

[Yes, the everyday wonders of nature. It is good to pause and notice them.]

No more orphans, no more COVID.

[It sounds like orphans are spreading COVID. I don't understand the connection.]

Smile makes me happy, like angel.

[It is nice to have a special someone (spouse, child, grandchild, friend...) whose smile can make us happy. I'm glad the writer has this person in their life.]

Here are my 6 word stories that describe each of our cats.

Pica -

Puffy tail now!

Ask questions, later.

Mochi -

Don't stop!

Meow, Meow!

More attention!

Lily -

Please sit;
I need a lap.