

A DOUBLE HAIKU FROM HOMOGRAPHS

ANIL

Perth, Australia

bay, bay, bay, bay bay

sea inlet, herb tree,
window view, reddish brown hound*
howling at the moon

This picturesque poem forms *two* haiku. Its title is five unrelated homographs. It arose out my “Homograph Puns” article in this issue. First it’s a classic English haiku of 17 (5-7-5) syllables. Second, the 5 word title itself meets the criteria for being a post-modern “haiku”, which scraps the 17 element and all rhythm and seeks minimal length evocations devoid of the “frills” of classical poetry. My title is such a five word poem. But it needs the 17 version to be translated, for all but very imaginative readers.

* Bay as a noun is usually applied to horses, but not obligately. A bay when talking about dogs can be a bay-coloured hound, as here. If you object, would you believe changing “hound” to “horse”—a bay horse that bays at the moon? I never met one of them. Nor I believe did Sherlock.

