

## 17 Assignments for Amy Charlotte Benson

1. Write a haiku, limerick, or sestina called "A History of New York City."
2. Write a short story, use only nouns and prepositions (e.g., "Mice on wheels. Teeth thru cheese. Time for Ingrid!").
3. Write a story in the second person plural voice.
4. Argue, in front of the class, convincingly, that "The Lottery," or "To Build a Fire," is the greatest story ever written (or the worst).
5. Write a poem that makes one specific person in the class angry (sad, insulted, uneasy, scared....).
6. Write a story in the voice and about the experience of someone much less fortunate than you, more victimized, less powerful.
7. Write a poem consisting entirely of specific complaints about your life, your situation.
8. Sing #7.
9. Using only a dictionary, translate a poem from a language you don't understand into English. Next, translate that back into the original language (or some other language), again, using only a dictionary.
10. Write a critical essay about a well-known short story, poem, or novel. Use the word "beets" as many times as you can.
11. Write a piece of non-fiction that begins "Dear grandma" and ends "Skip and Peanut are on their way home now."
12. Write a story where all sentences are made of a prime number of words (or powers of two).
13. Write a poem, which is just the words of another poem, rearranged. Or, in which every other word is from another poem (in order). Or, which is a word-by-word rewriting of another poem, but in your own words.
14. Prepare a list of the "10 Greatest Novels of all Time" (or poems, or plays, or stories). a) Nobody else should have heard of any of these, or, b) Make them up.

15. Give the following assignment: Write a poem about your cat, or any other pet. If you don't have a pet, write about a relative's pet. Your entire grade will be based on this assignment.
16. Write a poem or story, imitating as closely as you can, the style of another author, who doesn't exist.
17. Write something which is not a [poem, story, recipe, novel, essay, set of directions, list, play, score, lecture, email, letter, eulogy, ....], or anything else that has a name.

LP

5/1/07

for amy's new job