

**TEN THINGS I KNOW
ABOUT THE SHORT POEM**

Tom Montag

10.

If you are counting 5-7-5, you are not paying attention.
Pay attention.

9.

The good short poem leaves a long silence.
Do not fear the long silence.

8.

There is not much room for the poet in the short poem.
And barely enough room for the world. So stay out of it.

7.

Sometimes you get the poem.
Sometimes you get only the poem's shadow.

6.

The short poem holds everything and nothing.
We must try to split the difference.

5.

The short poem is like a plane
which has no place to land.
"May Day!" we say. "May Day!"

5.

I told you, if you are counting,
you are not paying attention.
Pay attention.

4.

Sometimes the short poem
is only one side of the conversation,
half the story.

3.

The short poem will turn on you.
That is its nature.

2.

When what you need is poetry,
a short one will do.

1.

The frog must jump.