

Ithaca Chatter

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Haiku

Advanced Class D5

everywhere around
many beautiful colors
fall in Ithaca

Elisaveta

football and concerts
hiking in colorful forests
autumn's the best

Hui

leaves become red
people enjoy sightseeing
fall is beautiful

Qinghui

light rain has stopped
right after a sunny day
pink worms in the street

Ximena

no colorful birds
branches full but no leaves
canopy of crows

Ximena

good scarf and warm boots
apple pie and hot cider
time to go to bed

Ximena

pumpkins at my door
children in funny costumes
welcome Halloween

Ximena

in the fading light
squirrels bustling under trees
dogs too old to chase

Cheryl

empty nests abound
ticking clock and quiet rooms
no children at home

Cheryl

sunlight's cold kisses
leaves of amber, red and gold
winter's bleak promise

Julie

The following poems were written by Archana Jaba from India. Archana has been a class assistant in ESL this past semester. As you can see, she is also a talented writer.

Precious Love

It is the reign of the merciless night;
Consumed by the ravenous blight,
Trapped in the deep dungeon alone,
Helplessly, I resist turning to stone.
Why did you ever oblige me, dear Bliss?
Oh, where is all lost now, what is amiss?

Then suddenly-
I behold you, My Love,
Advancing towards me from morning's mist.
My life I owe to every such fortuitous twist.

You alone possess every wholesome flavor,
What ephemeral pleasures could I savor?
You melt rocks with your cleansing tears
And vanquish formidable legions of fears.
In your powerful, contemplative silence,
Disarmed lies all tyrannous violence.
With your extraordinarily benign power,
You wash away pain in an ethereal shower.
Dearest, for you I feel an inculpable lust,
Without you, I am only ubiquitous dust.
With you I become the wild, blazing fire,
Filled to the brim with empowering desire.
Unshackled, aspirations dare to soar high,
Only in your inviting, limitless majestic sky.
When you seduce me for our sacred dance,
I find simple happy secrets in that trance.

You always rescue me from the cruel maze
But are untraceable in the enigmatic haze,
Incomprehensible is your magic
When sifted through hard logic,
But I know-
You are my only eternal treasure
With beauty that has no measure.
I am myself only in your presence,
For you are my very life, my essence.

You lead me back to where I belong
By the notes of your haunting song.
I am a tortuous river, you my embracing ocean,
To you dearest, I bring all my infinite devotion.
I am the erring many, you the only perfection divine,
But forever, I shall be yours and you shall be mine.

Before You Turn Away

To some,
I am a turbulent ocean of tears,
Blanketed by dark clouds of fears,
A helpless captive of memory-
Carefully etched, hard to bury,
First, a mystery that does entice,
And then only unrelenting ice.
But Dearest,
You are not one of them-
Walls, against which I bang and bleed,
And I know my words you will heed;
Don't leave me with these living yet dead,
Color me deep with that passion so red.

The Embrace

When capricious joy
Abandons, flies far out of sight;
When the bright day,
Reluctant, yields to the dark night;
When my tender heart,
Bruised, can only incessantly bleed
Amidst unseen poverty
As I grapple with my insatiable greed;
When valiant hope,
Brutally slain, lies cold and dead;
I wonder, amongst the many paths,
Each alluring, which should I tread-
It is the path leading me to thee, my dear friend,
To make another beginning after many an end.

Thanks to Amy Bukowski for her suggestions.

ESL students, let your voice be heard! *Ithaca Chatter* is a collection of essays, stories, poems and reports written by ESL students. We invite you to contribute to *Ithaca Chatter* in Spring 2011.

Campus Club Spring ESL Registration: January 22, 12 noon-1:30, Hasbrouck Community Center

Cities—At a Glance

Hui Lui, China

I love traveling. I've traveled to several cities in North America. Every city has its own charm, personality, and culture. I want to "read" a city. I really get excited just thinking about exploring a city by meeting people, tasting local foods, and wandering its streets and neighborhoods. However, only a few days in a city is hardly enough for me to "read" it. What I was left with after every trip was a brief impression of a city at a glance. Here, I'm going to choose three cities in the northeastern United States and write down my impression at a glance of them.

New York

If I were asked to think a city of the United States that best represents the United States, New York is on the top of my list. New York, the largest city in the U.S., is an architectural marvel with splendid buildings, monuments and numerous skyscrapers. In her book *Eat, Pray, Love*, Elizabeth Gilbert wrote that every city has a word, and she declared New York's to be "achieve". I agree with her; "achieve" is a word for New York. However, only one word is far from enough to describe its uniqueness and diversity.

New York is fast-paced. Roaming around Manhattan, I got easily lost in the urban jungle. The sky looked like plotted and framed, hanging among skyscrapers. Taxi drivers looked like race drivers. They stepped on the gas and shot way from the line when the green light flashed. New Yorkers strode steadily on the sidewalk. All the people hurried past. Only visitors like me hesitated at crosswalks to figure out the direction or look left and right for the traffic to be clear.

New York is dynamic. I once read that the best way to get in touch with New York was to see the Times Square at night. After spending a whole day in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, wandering through human history, we did make it to Times Square. It was breathtakingly fantastic. Standing in the crowd, we were dazzled by the large number of neon signs all around. Waving toward the huge LED screen broadcasting real-time video of the square, we were

so excited, to find the tiny images of ourselves. What an amazing experience and how lively the city is!

New York is a melting pot. It's an international city, with its large immigrant population and culture diversity. New York's Chinatown seems more like a neighborhood in a big Chinese city. Same thing for Little Italy and other neighborhoods. There were two scenes that captured me most when we visited New York last time. One was at a subway station; all of sudden I heard something familiar, seemingly from Jinghu (a Chinese string instrument with the highest pitch, commonly used in Chinese traditional opera). Turning around a corner, I saw a musician sitting against the wall and playing jinghu. Only in New York City could I see this. The other thing that caught my attention was a huge crowd attracted by quickening drumbeats. Two African-American young men were playing paint buckets as their instruments, sounding like a whole percussion band. Those were sounds of New York, high pitched and fast rhythm!

New York, a city full of changes, full of energy, is an important financial and economic center as well as a culture center. It's a sample of modern civilization; it's unique for its diversity. It is America in miniature.

Boston

If I could say New York is a popular star that attracts all attention, then Boston is a spotlight-shunning scholar, living an unassuming life. It is one of the oldest cities in the United States; it's also ranked number one for innovation.

Coming from China, I don't think 400 years history is too long, but for Boston, 400 years is long enough for its cultural heritage in American history. It comprises many firsts in America, for examples, America's oldest restaurant, America's first public school, the first subway stations and the nation's oldest university.

Walking along the Freedom Trail, every step tells a story. We finished the whole 2.5 miles and stepped into the history of the American Revolution. I first knew Boston from "Boston Tea Party", in my high school history textbook. Visiting those historic landmarks in person was exciting. It seemed like I

was in the 17th century when I shared a bench outside an old church facing a cobblestone street with an old gentleman in colonial clothing. Two little pretty girls about four and five danced to the music played by a street violinist at a small square under the statue of Paul Revere. I didn't know if those two girls knew about the heroes in the American Revolution, but that was one of the most beautiful dances I had ever seen.

Another aspect that attracted me most in Boston is its art and music. Boston's famous conservatories and art schools, fascinating museums, renowned theaters, and the world-class symphony orchestra and ballet earn national and international reputation for it as a hub of art and music. Strolling along the tranquil side streets with distinctive galleries and elegant music stores on both sides, I was close to art and music as well as visiting museums and attending concerts.

Boston is a center of education. The city's economy is built on high technology. Cambridge, home of Harvard and MIT, Boston's left bank, is a dream place for thousands of students all over the world. Compared to Cornell's open, beautiful and gorgeous campus, Harvard's campus is small and congested, but it doesn't stop people from gathering around John Harvard's statue and waiting in line to touch his shiny left foot. I joked that people in that district must have the highest IQ scores in general. Looking at those students reading under trees, who knew, one of them might be the next Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerberg.

Boston is a place where historic charm blends with modern vitality, stone-brick churches stand by glass-enclosed skyscrapers, and old universities create cutting-edge ideas. Boston is an historic modern city.

Washington D.C.

Washington D.C., the capital of the United States, is a city that can never be forgotten. Before visiting, my impression on D.C. was from television news. I dare say that it is a city which you see most in television in the world; every move in Washington stimulates the whole world's nerves. "Washington" is more like a political term than a name of a city. After visiting D.C, I am impressed by its distinguished beauty and love the city very much.

Compared to New York's plotted sky, Washington's sky is so broad that it could be described as luxury. Together with its imposing buildings, grand monuments, stately memorials, and wide sidewalks, Washington is "great".

During our visit, we lingered a long time around the National Mall. We mounted the platform of Lincoln Memorial and faced the reflecting pool, the Washington Monument erected in the front; we visited the largest library in the world, astonished by its magnificence; we ran from one museum to another, exhausted but excited. What did we say most? It's great!

I noticed that voices were unique in Washington. Standing on the platform where Martin Luther King gave that famous speech, I remembered that great voice; visiting the Senate Gallery, we went there at the time when John McCain was talking about health insurance; the old man, who lived in a tent facing the White House all year around gave his voice in a silent way; loudspeakers in the rallies that we saw every day were another type of voice.

It is Washington, a city where you can hear different voices under the broad blue sky.

Delicious Food for Ithaca Winter

Soomee Hong, Korea

We can be easily depressed with 5 months long winter in Ithaca and feeling like missing something from home. It's the signal that you need to get the best of homesickness. Here is one way to smash it. This food looks like a pancake, but it is colorful and healthy. It goes well with a glass of wine.

Korean Pancake.

1. Soak mung beans in 2 cups of water at least 6 hours.
2. Grind mung beans with the mixer.
3. Boil the green bean sprout (500g) and season with 2 t-spoon of soy sauce and 1 t-spoon sesame oil, and
4. 1 t-spoon of salt.
5. Season ground beef with 2 t-spoon of soy sauce and 1 t-spoon sesame oil and 1 t-spoon of salt and 1 t-spoon pepper.
6. Dice 2 onions.
7. Mix all ingredients and make the pancake batter
8. Sizzle the fry pan and bake the pancake batter with some vegetable oil in medium heat.