

Well, I've been a fan of Roger Federer for quite a while now. He's going to have to do a whole lot worse than tell a bunch of fans to shut up.  
I've said worse than that to my first graders.

I like to watch the primates in the zoo  
because they are so much like me and you  
their curling fingers love to grab and clutch  
and they'll hold on to anything they touch

and they are often hesitant to share  
anything that they perceive as theirs  
they fight - they are competitive as hell  
but they can have a softer side as well

the mothers hold their babies to their breasts  
and for that one they would fight all the rest  
the little ones just love to run and play  
instinctively, they know to seize the day

I like to watch them swinging in the trees  
because they are so much like you and me

As a poet, I confess, I am a hack  
while some express their thoughts, I juggle words  
and hope that, in the end, a thought is spurred  
just as a train must stay upon the track

The wild river flows between two banks  
the picture cannot go outside the frame  
there are boundaries in every game  
the sheep must have the sheepdog at their flanks

Not everything that's written has to rhyme  
in fact, sometimes it sounds contrived and wrong  
a novel cannot keep it up for long  
Haiku is short and simple and sublime

There are many styles, we all know 'em  
but when it rhymes, you know it is a poem

We have evolved within this atmosphere  
this envelope of air, this tiny shell  
around the planet we all know so well  
We know so well, of course, because we're here

The rivers flow with water we can drink  
the plants that grow are good for us to eat  
the surface is well suited to our feet  
It couldn't be more perfect, I don't think

Yet, as we find new planets out in space  
each one is very different from our own  
fiery hells or frigid, barren stone  
although life could evolve in other places

On different planets, under other skies  
the phrase "life as we know it" won't apply