

## Octameter

### Deadly Tornado in Tuscaloosa

April 27, 2011

Utter upheaval  
and destruction.  
Savage storm ravaged,  
Whole neighborhood gone  
sucked in debris ball  
Search and rescue begun.  
Hundreds injured, dead.  
Shock, loss—everyone.

August 26, 1982

My memories meshed  
to day my life changed  
by a truck driver  
crushing my son's breath,  
leaving us crumpled  
over his cruel death.  
In Tuscaloosa sun  
beloved, golden son.

### Creating Artificial Intelligence

Right now robots have the intelligence of a  
cockroach—Michio Kaku

Someday smart as cat,  
dog or monkey.  
They might rebel.  
Put in chips to stop!  
No common sense.  
Can't make enough rules  
becomes nonsense  
to be daily cop.

They will do our work.  
Blue collar safe.  
White—low level.  
Out of work in mobs.  
Who will do the tasks?  
We'll be lazy slobs.  
Vacations flip-flop.  
We will just eavesdrop.

**Octameter:** Created by Shelley A.  
Cephas  
16 lines. 2 stanzas of 8 lines each.  
Syllable Count: 5 for all lines.  
Rhyme Scheme: a-b-c-d-e-d-f-d  
g-h-i-j-k-j-d-d