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**The Atomic Age: Haiku Edition**

My name is Bobby

I am ten years old today

Mom gave me money

Buy the comic books?

To the candy store, I go?

So many choices!

Go see a movie?

Godzilla is playing now

Let's do everything!

Comic books glisten

In their newly wrapped plastic

The bright colors shine

Superman! Batman!

All of the superheroes!

Nothing can stop them!

Not even the bomb.

The atomic bomb, that is.

It is powerful

I look at the books

The covers all have the bomb

Explosions galore

The reds, oranges

And yellows glow with gusto

Combusting fires

Fire raids the shelves

I see nothing else most days

It seems so real

The fumes spread outward

Pouring out of the news print

Invading radios

The bomb will not stop

Songs in the comic store play

As I browse the shelves

I pick up Batman

I walk up to the counter

I then pay 10 cents

Batman will protect

Me from an atomic bomb

At least, I hope so

I leave for candy

I can smell the sweets from here

Here I come to feast

Approaching the glass

I see colorful yummys

And then it hit me

A vibrant new red

Accompanied with yellow

Something new is here

They are on display  
“NEW Atomic Fireballs!”

I must go try one

The Candyman says,  
“You may try one, for a cent.”

I give him one penny

The wrapper crinkles  
I pop out the bright red orb  
It glows in the light

I toss it on up  
And I catch it in my mouth  
My oh my, surprise!

The spice, the fire,  
My tongue cannot withstand this  
A true explosion!

My eyeballs water  
My face reddens and is hot  
It burns! Oh, it burns!

The Candyman laughs  
I spit out the fireball  
My mouth is crying

I just bombed my buds  
The atomic bomb won't leave  
It *must* be candy

How could you do this?  
Make something so innocent  
Into a weapon?

Why must the candy  
Have to hurt me so badly?  
It is atomic

All things atomic

Must have to hurt in some way

Even in candy

I leave disgruntled

I walk and kick a pebble

Which lands somewhere fun

The movies! Oh, right!

Godzilla is playing now

I can go see that!

Giant monster roams

The city of Tokyo

Destroying buildings!

I rush on inside

And find a seat in the front

I am so ready!

The movie plays on

And this is how it happened:

The atomic bomb

The A-bomb was dropped

And it awoke Godzilla

He radiated

He was seething with

Rage for whatever did this.

He rose and attacked.

Godzilla is big

Godzilla is frightening

I will have nightmares

Once again, it's there:

The atomic bomb is there

Shown in the movies

There is no escape

We must live in fear of it

The bomb is a threat

A threat in comics

A threat found in my candies

A threat in movies

I am always scared

What if it hits my house next?

It cannot be stopped

Batman won't save me

It will cause monsters to come

I will be afraid