

## THE CARNIVAL

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**Here,** • What impression do you have of  
the people who work in the carnival?  
• Did you like or dislike the story?  
Why?

### Writing Assignment

- In a paragraph describe a scene you know well—possibilities might be your family or breakfast or dinner table. Try to use dialog to enhance your description.

**people look forward with dread to the sweltering dog days of summer. Andrei Codrescu is one of them. He uses**

**examples to show how heat and humidity can alter his outlook and behavior.**

August is a dramatic month. Humidity is a form of madness. Writing is a form of suicide. The temptation to talk like this, is short clips, is over whelming.

Short sentences are like raindrops; loud, splashyand desirable.

August, the most complacent month. Laziness, humidity, and utter lack of thought are its chief characteristics. Sluggish and indolent, we drag our bodies through its sweaty middle like primeval crawlers.

I saw a guy, prostrate from heat, staring at an empty parking lot downtown. “There are more leaves on the trees this year”, he said. I looked at the expanse of steaming cement before us and agreed. That was an August encounter and that man an August character. An ambassador of Humidity. The reason why so many people die in August is that nobody is really awake. All Death has to do is pluck the unalart from the planet like overripe peaches. If you are poor and hot like me, one way to escape August is to visit Showrooms. Not only are they air-conditioned, they are educational. I went to an IBM computer showplace and a dear Lady paraded me before the friendly pastels of a thousand keyboards.It was like ice-cream.

Looking over the Augusts of my life, I find all sorts of delirious phenomena. Once I was mugged in a hallway. I was too irritated by the heat to pay. I screamed at the guy and he only took half the money. A few years ago, my wife produced a wonderful calendar full of useful and wonderful facts, as well as the birthdays of all our friends. I tried to talk her into leaving August out. When she wouldn't listen, I went through her files and had several people I didn't like moved to August. She caught me. I pleaded humidity. I don't think she's forgiven me yet.

- **complacent** - благодушний, самовдоволений
- **delirious** - що марить; нестямний; божевільний
- **primeval** - що належить до ранніх віків
- **rostrate** - розпростертий; знесилений; виснажений
- **emanate** - виходити; походити; випромінювати(ся)
- **overwhelming** - незлічений, величезний, переважаючий; непоборний
- **muggy** - теплий; вологий; задушливий

### Questions about the reading

- Why the writer calls August “dramatic month”?