Hey, how you doing, Mr. Lemur?
Let me whisper in your ear --
Tell you some facts
You might like to hear.

Sent the Carolina Five
Just to keep you alive;
Introduced some gene flow
Just to help you grow.
And I know how it goes:
I'm your number one foe.

Nocturnal or diurnal,
It really doesn’t matter.
I’ll farm all your land
To make my food platter.

Came to Madagascar
As fast as a Nascar.
Ran quick to the water,
(Straight to the raft
Like you saw a ringtail
Who’s ready to waft)
Because there was less competition
When feeding in the kitchen,
But this is just a hypothesis,
So some scientists question this.

You’ve got 33 species –
That’s a lot of distant cousins!
But with adaptive radiation
There’s little repercussion.

Thanks to adaptive radiation
On the Betampona Reserve,
You all can have a massive celebration,
Which you deserve.

Thanks to everyone’s
Own niche,
Your plans, Mr. Lemur,
Can go off without a hitch.

What makes a language real? Not fake?
Well, there are seven rules that you should not mistake.
Primates and other animals share features of language sometimes,
But humans have developed a higher degree in their lifetimes.

The first rule of language is that it must be open.
New objects and concepts? Language will be copin’.
In the film, Kanzi’s symbols were combined into sentences.
He’d only heard these once, but he understood their senses.

Arbitrary symbols is the second rule found here;
These words or sounds are not obvious icons that are clear.
Kanzi used triangles for “apples”, an hourglass for “give.”
(The use of bubblegum, we know, may be an incentive.)

Displacement in nonhumans sometimes can be tough.
We refer to distant things just fine without a huff.
Kanzi used displacement in the film without pillage,
When asked to “Get the pine needles that are in the fridge.”

The words have discrete meanings, fitting the fourth rule,
With distinct messages being the main tool.
Kanzi knew of Coke and jelly, water, and a ball.
He performed each task requested of him with no flaw.

Our lexicon’s a vocabulary or list of meaningful units,
Without the use of dictionaries or needing silly booklets.
Kanzi used a keyboard with lexigrams to communicate.
He also understood English; that’s one bilingual ape!

Grammar is the sixth rule, most common in us humans.
Combining words in meaningful ways sometimes can cause burdens.
Kanzi understood the order of words in those commands;
He put soap on the ball and not vice versa with his hands.

Finally, we come to recursion on our list.
Embedding concepts inside other units is a twist.
Humans often use recursion without seeming to notice.
But Kanzi’s short-term memory doesn’t show the same boldness.

Through all the observations and the claims that have been made,
Any doubt of Kanzi’s language skills has surely not been saved.
Perhaps he’s not advanced enough to make a soup or sandwich,
But Kanzi sure has demonstrated use of protolanguage.
**Naomi Bogale**  
**This Makes Culture**

Culture is a part of us:  
Monkeys, apes, hominids plus.  
It has to be learned, not instinctive;  
This is what makes it so distinctive.

Culture gains pattern over time,  
It cannot be random, that's a crime.  
It is also transmittable, better yet shared;  
This shows us how our ancestors cared.

They cared ‘cause they showed us how to copy their behavior;  
This made them practically our savior.  
Adopting new behaviors is critical for our survival,  
So it can be imitated by the new arrivals.

Our behavior is then diffused, which means it spreads,  
So we can teach other groups how to make beds.  
This culture goes beyond looking for food,  
Language and tool building, it also includes.

Culture is persistent, and can last forever;  
Even when the creator is gone, wherever.  
Lastly, culture is natural, people can't intrude.  
It’s shared between the primates, none can exclude.

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**Jennifer Yuan**  
**Processes of Evolution**

The five processes of evolution are the only solution,  
For evolutionary changes- it’s quite the contribution!  
From natural selection which acts on variation,  
Survival of the fit; it's not a mysterious creation!

Mutations being an alteration in genetic material,  
It relies on DNA changes but it's nowhere near serial.  
Gene flow provides a melting pot for the masses,  
Introducing alleles like kids on the first day of classes.

Genetic makeup is passed down to the succeeding,  
Chance deviations in allele frequencies are population receding.  
Genes pass through the pedigree creating a probability.  
Luck plays a key, if you can catch genetic drift's ability.

Picky and idealistic some species may be,  
With nonrandom mating, differences are all they see.  
Consanguineous or assortative, do these choices really matter?  
In some cases, one may cause chatter, so most prefer the latter.