

**LESSON TITLE:**

Haiku Poetry

**DO NOW/WARM-UP:**

None

**FOCUS DISCUSSION:**

Discuss the art of capturing a moment or emotions in words

**OBJECTIVES:**

**Short term:**

SWBAT understand and write Haiku poems

**Long term:**

SWBAT write more creatively

**PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE:**

General writing skills

Familiarity with poetry

**MATERIALS:**

Haiku Description Sheet

Haiku Examples Sheet

Figurative Language Worksheet

**LESSON DESCRIPTION:**

Teacher will explain what a Haiku poem is and the guidelines for composing a Haiku poem

Teacher and students will read and discuss both traditional and modern Haiku poems

Students will write Haiku poems in class

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will write at least two Haiku poems in class and the teacher will assess if the students are “getting it”

**INDEPENDENT PRACTICE:**

Students will write a Haiku poem for homework

# Haiku

## What is a Haiku?

Haiku is one of the most important forms of traditional Japanese poetry.

## What subjects are Haiku poems about?

Haiku poems can describe almost anything, but you rarely find themes which are too complicated. Some of the most interesting Haiku poems describe daily situations in a way that gives the reader a brand new experience of a well known situation.

## Haiku poems often capture...

the importance of the poet's first impression, just as it was, of subjects taken from daily life, and of local color and mood.

## How do you write Haiku poems?

When using the Japanese language, the rules for how to write Haiku are clear. In foreign languages, there exists no agreement on how to write Haiku poems.

## The metrical pattern of Haiku poems.

Haiku poems consist of a 5 syllable line, followed by a 7 syllable line, followed by a 5 syllable line. In Japanese, this convention is a must, but in English, which has variation in the length of syllables, this can sometimes be difficult.

## Seasonal themes in Haiku poems.

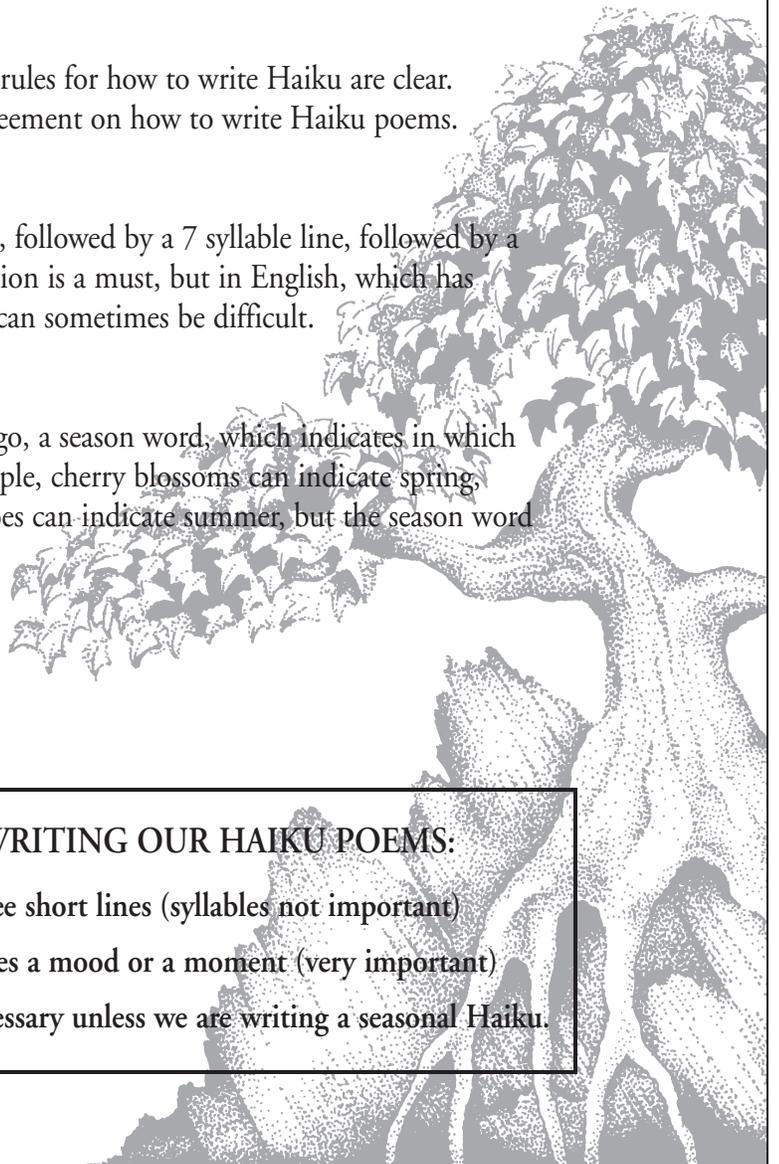
Each Haiku poem usually contains a kigo, a season word, which indicates in which season the Haiku poem is set. For example, cherry blossoms can indicate spring, snow can indicate winter, and mosquitoes can indicate summer, but the season word isn't always that obvious.

## Do Haiku poems rhyme?

Usually Haiku poems do not rhyme.

### GUIDELINES FOR WRITING OUR HAIKU POEMS:

- The Haiku poem should be three short lines (syllables not important)
- The Haiku poem should captures a mood or a moment (very important)
- A season word (kigo) is not necessary unless we are writing a seasonal Haiku.



## TRADITIONAL JAPANESE HAIKU EXAMPLES

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- \* No sky  
no earth - but still  
snowflakes fall  
*Hashin*
  
- \* An old pond!  
A frog jumps in-  
The sound of water.  
*Bashó, Matsuo (1644-1694)*
  
- \* A whale!  
Down it goes, and more and more  
up goes its tail!  
*Buson, Yosa (1716-84)*
  
- \* A giant firefly:  
that way, this way, that way, this -  
and it passes by.  
*Issa (1762-1826)*
  
- \* Right at my feet -  
and when did you get here,  
snail?  
*Issa (1762-1826)*
  
- \* A man, just one -  
also a fly, just one -  
in the huge drawing room.  
*Issa (1762-1826)*
  
- \* First autumn morning:  
the mirror I stare into  
shows my father's face.  
*Murakami, Kijo (1865-1938)*
  
- \* Night, and the moon!  
My neighbor, playing on his flute -  
out of tune!  
*Kójó*

## MODERN NON-JAPANESE HAIKU EXAMPLES

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- \* Freeway overpass--  
Blossoms in graffiti on  
fog-wrapped June mornings  
*Michael R. Collings*
  
- \* Deserted steel-mill.  
Along the Ohio River,  
Chromatic butterfly.  
*John*
  
- \* Silence--a strangled  
Telephone has forgotten  
That it should ring  
*Michael R. Collings*
  
- \* the morning paper  
harbinger of good and ill  
- - I step over it  
*Dave McCroskey*
  
- \* Worker bees can leave  
Even drones can fly away  
The queen is their slave  
*From the movie Fight Club*
  
- \* Broken buildings,  
lonely benches, desolation —  
in the middle stands a school?  
*John Mazza*
  
- \* Yodeling fur,  
giant yet gentle,  
his friends call him Chewy.  
*John Mazza*
  
- \* One strike left,  
it's all on Chris,  
a pitch, a swing, a miss! :-(  
*John Mazza*

# Figurative Language

TERM	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE
<i>Alliteration</i>	The repetition of usually initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words or syllables	<i>The big brown bear barreled through the brush.</i>
<i>Assonance</i>	A resemblance of sound in words or syllables	<i>When we got to the top my pop took a flop</i>
<i>Cliche</i>	A word or phrase that has become overly familiar or commonplace	<i>The bigger they come the harder they fall</i>
<i>Hyperbole</i>	Big exaggeration, usually with humor	<i>I'm so hungry I could eat a horse</i>
<i>Idiom</i>	The language peculiar to a group of people	<i>He kicked the bucket</i>
<i>Metaphor</i>	Comparing two things by using one kind of object or using in place of another to suggest the likeness between them	<i>All the world's a stage</i>
<i>Onomatopoeia</i>	Naming a thing or an action by imitating the sound associated with it	<i>bang, sizzle, quack</i>
<i>Personification</i>	Giving something human qualities	<i>The weeping tree looked sad standing alone in the large barron field.</i>
<i>Simile</i>	A figure of speech comparing two unlike things that is often introduced by like or as	<i>His hair was so red and bright it looked like flames blazed on top of his head.</i>