

HOW TO HAIKU

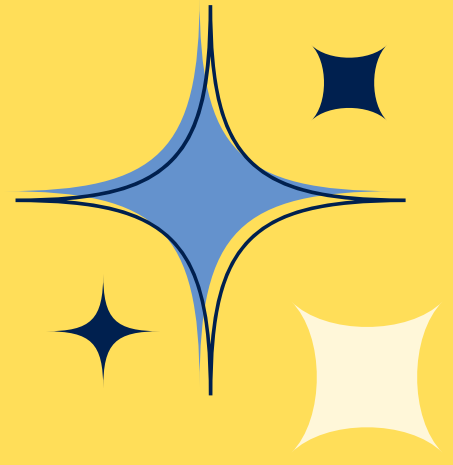


A lesson on appreciating and
writing haiku



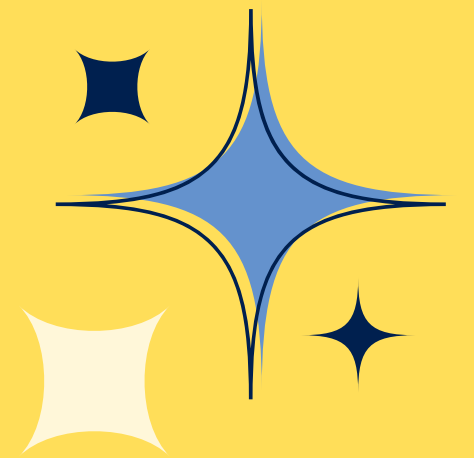
written by Anna Yin
& designed by the
League of Canadian
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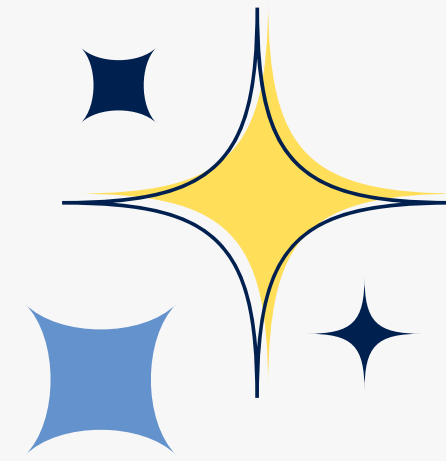


WHAT HAIKU CAN DO FOR YOU

- Learn to understand that “less can be more,” simple things can mean the most.
- Develop observational skills by paying attention to the details of your surroundings
- Enjoy the simple way of life and discover small wonders.
- Capture the moments of “here and now” by exploring the creative usage of words and images.



HAIKU WARM-UP



5-10 MINUTES

- * **Choose a photo or image that you like**
- * **Write a few lines about why you like it**

Be creative!

Use your senses: What does this image look like, feel like, smell like, sound like?

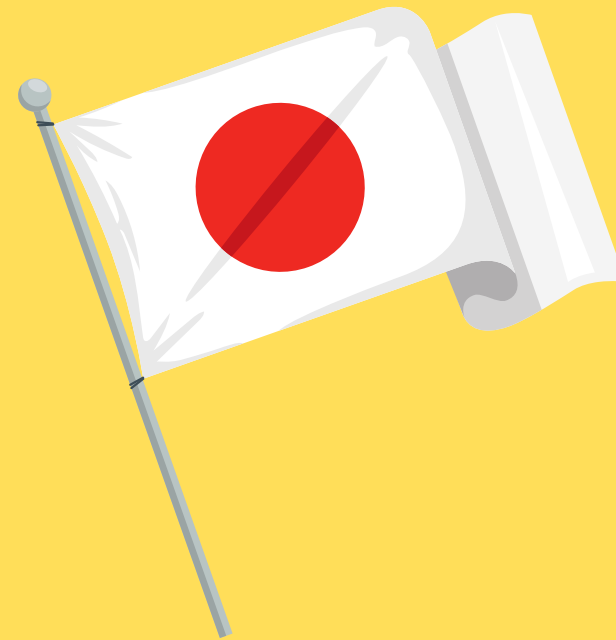
- * **Share your sentences with the class**

Look for a few volunteers to share their work.

Save your sentences for an upcoming exercise!



WHAT IS HAIKU?



- Short form poetry
- Written over 3 lines
- Originally from Japan
 - In Japan, haiku is composed of 17 *on**
 - **on*: phonetic units similar to syllables
- Simple and objective language

WHAT IS HAIKU?

- 5-7-5 syllable pattern*
- Does not need to rhyme
- Structured with two-part juxtaposition:
 - a beginning and ending
 - contrasting imagery
 - humour
 - surprise

5 7 5

*

Do haiku need to be in a 5-7-5 syllable pattern?

No!

Keep your haiku short and sweet.

The 5-7-5 pattern is a great place to start if you haven't written haiku before!



THE HAIKU PHILOSOPHY



Haiku has changed over the ages, but the philosophy of haiku has remained:

- focus on a brief moment in time (the here and now)
- use of stimulating sensory images
- ability to be recited in one breath
- a sense of sudden enlightenment or illumination, beauty and wonder

HAIKU: *SHOW, DON'T TELL*

Haiku Master Bashō's famous frog poem

This is the most famous haiku poem by Japan's most famous haiku poet.

Matsuo Basho (1644-1694) composed it at a haiku gathering in 1686 when he was 43 years old.

古池や
蛙飛び込む
水の音

The old pond
a frog leaps in
the sound of water

Everyone can experience haiku in their own way.

- Does this poem make you feel happiness, sadness, curiosity, loneliness?

Notice how the poet does not tell the reader how to feel about the frog, pond and sounds.

- The moment is described, but not explained.

HAIKU EXAMPLES



Toward those short trees
we saw a hawk descending
on a day in spring.

by Masaoka Shiki

Source: <https://www.haiku-poetry.org/famous-haiku.html>

League of Canadian Poets' Haiku Resource, 2022

HAIKU EXAMPLES

Using your imagination...

What do you hear?

What do you see?

What can you touch or feel?

What can you smell?

Toward those short trees
we saw a hawk descending
on a day in spring.

by Masaoka Shiki

Discuss for each of the examples.

Source: <https://www.haiku-poetry.org/famous-haiku.html>

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HAIKU EXAMPLES



Chinese new year's eve
sizzling with firecrackers
my mother's dumplings

by Anna Yin

HAIKU EXAMPLES



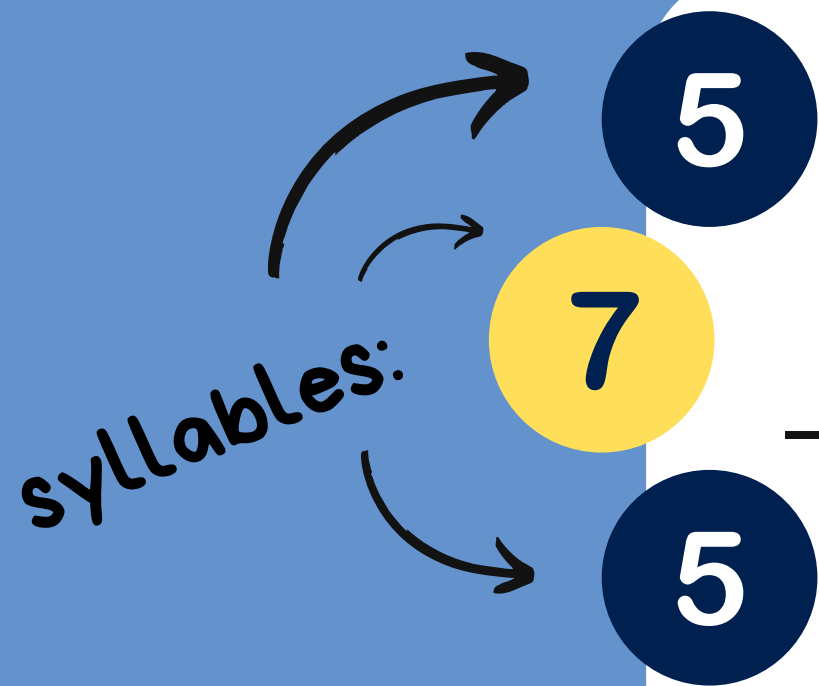
The wind and I play
tug-of-war with my new kite.
The wind is winning.

by Bob Raczka

Source: *Guyku* by Bob Raczka (HarperCollins)

HAIKU EXAMPLES

Create your own lines to add to the poem!



Girl on a bike

HAIKU EXAMPLES

This is how the poet chose to write the poem!



Plunging downhill
Petals falling in her hair —
Girl on a bike

by Anna Vakar

HAIKU EXAMPLES



Even in the air
with a berry in his mouth—
Blue jay caw-cawing

by Sydell Rosenberg

Source: *H is for Haiku* by Sydell Rosenberg (Penny Candy Books, 2018).

YOUR HAIKU

What Will You Write About?

- Nature
- Special Events (Birthdays, Holidays)
- Your favourite activity
- Your family and culture(s)

WRITE A HAIKU

The WWW Method

When, Where and What

Line 1: Show **WHEN** your haiku takes place

Line 2: Show **WHERE** your haiku takes place

Line 3: Show **WHAT** is happening

Example

1

coming and going

2

above the lock-down

3

wild geese fly

by Anna Yin

WRITE A HAIKU

The Contrast Method

1 separate subject with 2 complementary subjects

This poem by Anna Yin plays with the contrast between subject 1: the old stone ruins and subject 2: beautiful living flowers

Line 1: Introduce subject 1

Line 2: introduce subject 2,
contrasting subject 1

Line 3: complement to
subject 2

Example

1

_ among the ruins _

2

forget-me-nots blue

3

morning glory red

WRITE A HAIKU

The Movie Method

Build and imagine your haiku as a movie!

Movies often use a far away shot and move in closer.

You can do this with haiku too!

Example

Line 1: a wide shot

1

loons' calling

Line 2: a mid-range shot

2

scattered diamonds on the lake

Line 3: Zoom in for a close up

3

the sun rises

Remember our Haiku Warm-Up?



WRITE A HAIKU

Using your warm-up notes and the Haiku Methods

- * **WWW Method: When, What, Where**
- * **Contrast Method: 2 similar lines with 1 contrasting line**
- * **Movie Method: Wide angle, middle ground, and close up**



SHARE YOUR HAIKU

Poetry is powerful when we all experience it together!



THE END

Your creativity
is a shining light
that makes the world brighter



Learn more about Poetry Alive Classroom visits and poetry workshops with Anna Yin at www.annapoetry.com

Explore poetry year-round with the League of Canadian Poets • www.poets.ca