




HAIKU POEMS

How to write a haiku poem



What is a haiku?

- a short three-line poem
- it usually follows a 5-7-5 syllable structure.
- Haiku poetry was originally developed by Japanese poets
- often inspired by nature, a moment of beauty, or an experience.
- Haikus are meant to be read in one breath for impact.

How to get inspired

- **Go for a walk in nature.**
- **Focus on a season or seasonal event.**
- **Choose a person or object as your subject.**
- **Read examples of a haiku.**
- **Focus on an event in your past or something that is troubling you.**

An example may look like this:

Boom, boom, boom, bam, bam!

My head is a battleground

With countless outbursts

Writing the haiku

Follow the line and syllable structure of a haiku. Haikus follow a strict form: three lines, with a 5-7-5 syllable structure. That means the first line will have five syllables, the second line will have seven syllables, and the last line will have five syllables.

- **The poem will have a total of seventeen syllables. Learn to count syllables in a word.**
- **A haiku does not have to rhyme or follow a certain rhythm as long as it follows the syllable count.**

●		
●		
●	5 syllable	Refresh <u>ing</u> <u>and</u> cool,
●	7 syllable	love <u>is</u> a <u>sweet</u> <u>summer</u> rain
●	5 syllable	that <u>washes</u> <u>the</u> world.
●		
●		
●		
●		
●		
●		



Describe the subject with sensory detail.

- **For example, you may write about the “horrible smell of the toilet” or the “bitter taste of the morning air.”**
- **If you are writing a haiku about a particular subject, such as your dog, you may describe the “smelly fur of wet dog.”**

use
sensory detail

Love is like winter

Warm breaths thaw cold hearts until

one day the spring comes

Use concrete images and descriptions that are easy for the reader to visualize. Try describing the subject with details that are particular and unique.

- **For example, you may write, “Fall leaves brush the road” or “Dog chases a bright bluebird.”**

use
concrete images

One shark said to the
other when eating a clown
fish: this tastes funny.

Write the poem in the present tense. Using the present tense can also make your lines simple and easy to follow.

Write in
present tense

An afternoon breeze
expels cold air, along with
the fallen brown leaves.

End with a surprising last line.

use an
intriguing ending

A winter blanket
covers the Earth in repose
but only a dream



Polishing the haiku


Read the haiku out loud.

Listen to how the haiku sounds.

Make it sound natural and follow the 5-7-5 syllable count. The haiku should sound natural when read aloud.

Show the haiku to others and get feedback

Place the haiku in the center of the page and center the lines so it forms a diamond shape. This is how haikus are traditionally formatted.



An ocean voyage.
As waves break over the bow,
the sea welcomes me.