

Name: _____



Japanese Haiku

By Kimberly M. Hutmacher

Haiku is a short Japanese form of poetry. It became popular in the United States after World War II. Americans living in Japan during the occupation became interested in Japanese art and culture. Haiku, having so much in common with other forms of Japanese art, is a good introduction to the country's culture.

Because nature plays a large role in Japanese society, it is usually the main subject of a haiku. Haiku poets usually write about their gardens, animals, trees, water, and the sky.

A haiku almost always has three lines. The first line has five syllables. The second line has seven syllables, and the last line has five syllables.

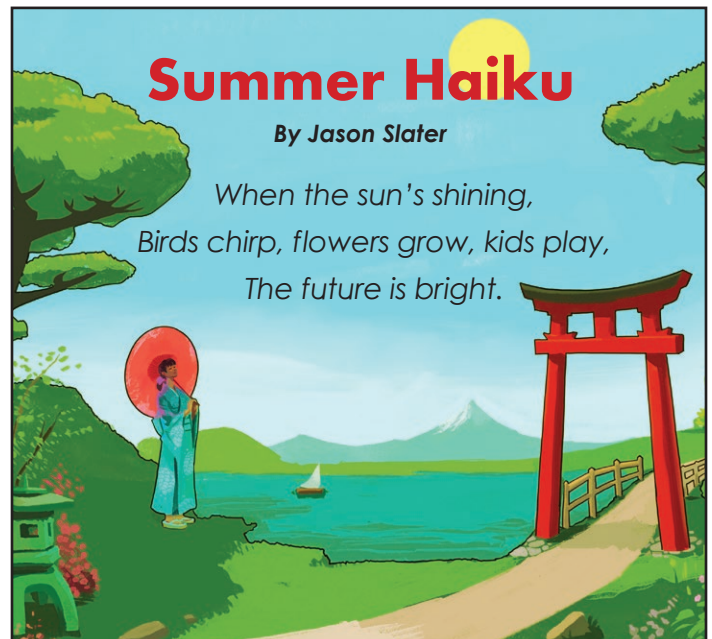
Unlike many poems you may have read, a haiku does not need to rhyme. This makes them very easy and fun to write.



Winter Haiku

By Jason Slater

The snow keeps falling,
Creating a white blanket.
Winter forever!



Summer Haiku

By Jason Slater

When the sun's shining,
Birds chirp, flowers grow, kids play,
The future is bright.

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1. Which would be a likely topic for a haiku poem?

- a. ocean waves
- b. city traffic
- c. cooking
- d. gold coins

2. Where did haiku originate?

- a. North America
- b. Europe
- c. Africa
- d. Asia

3. Which fact about haiku is true?

- a. They are always written in Japanese.
- b. They are Japanese games or puzzles.
- c. They are short poems about nature.
- d. They are only popular in Japan.

4. How many syllables does a haiku have in all?

5. Will a haiku always have more words in the second line than in the first?

Explain your answer.

Name: _____



My Haiku Poem

Write a haiku poem. The first line should have five syllables.
The second line should have seven syllables.
The third line should have five syllables.
Your haiku does not have to rhyme.

Title: _____

by _____

Draw an illustration to go along with your poem.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for the student to draw an illustration related to their haiku poem.

ANSWER KEY

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4. How many syllables does a haiku have in all?

17

5. Will a haiku always have more words in the second line than in the first?

Explain your answer.

No, a haiku can have fewer words in the second line in some cases.

The second line should always have more syllables than the first, but it could

have fewer words if the words have more syllables.