



# Know Your Poetry – Short Forms

## I Can Haiku

The activities below will test your understanding of haiku poetry and guide you through writing your own.

### Recap

1. What is haiku?

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2. Who is considered the 'father of haiku'? \_\_\_\_\_

3. In which century did he live? \_\_\_\_\_

4. 'Who' is the character in the haiku 'Autumn Moonlight'?

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5. Explain the difference between a syllable and a mora.

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### Write

Step 1. Write a kigo (seasonal reference) to use in your haiku. To get some inspiration, look out a window or call upon a vivid memory of being in nature.

Step 2. Draft your haiku. Be careful to get the structure right. Use a syllable pattern (not a mora pattern) of 5 (line 1), 7 (line 2), 5 (line 3).

Step 3. Give your poem a title.

Step 4. Carefully edit and polish your poem. Don't rush! Go over and over it.

Step 5. Once you have polished your haiku, get another member of the class to read it while you read theirs. Then, ask them (and they will ask you) ...

- a) What is the kigo in the poem?
- b) Is the syllable pattern correct?
- c) What is the best thing about the poem?

If your reader can't give a satisfactory answer to one or more of these questions, you may need to go back and edit the poem again.

Step 6. Optional: If there is time, repeat the above process to create another haiku.

### Extension or homework task

Complete one of the following tasks:

write another haiku poem

write a cinquain

write a limerick

Whichever type of poem you choose to write, make sure you follow the specific rules for that form (especially structure and syllable patterns).

