

Description of a Haiku

A haiku is often described as one breath. A haiku moment occurs when you observe two things happening together and make a connection in your mind. To make a haiku, you simply write down what you saw, heard, smelt, or touched, in plain language. This allows your reader or hearer to experience their own 'Aha!' moment from your haiku.

Haiku is a form of poetry that uses only three lines. A popular format is to have -

five syllables in the first line, seven in the second and five in the third. This is known as the 5-7-5 pattern, but a strict syllable count is not required.

Noting down your haiku moment is the first step. Then trim your haiku to its bare essentials. Keep in mind that if your meaning is clear without punctuation it is best not to use it.

Some helpful examples:

summer breeze
leaves of my book turning
before they're read *David Cobb (UK)*

summer grasses
all that remains
of soldiers' dreams *Matsuo Basho (Japan, 1644-1694) (trans Lucien Stryck)*

the tuatara stares
at the class *Nola Borrell (NZ)*

little snail
climb Mt Fuji
inch by inch *Kobayashi Issa (Japan, 1763-1827)*