

Haiku Poetry

俳句

Haiku (which sounds like Hi-koo when we say it) poetry comes from Japan. Japan is a country many miles from where we live. Just take a look at the map of the world below.

We live here



Map of the World

This is Japan,
nearly 6000
miles away!

Haiku poems are only three lines long. They often describe a place and don't have to rhyme.

If you want to write a Haiku poem here are two things to remember:

- different words are made up of a different number of parts called syllables
- each line of the poem must have a certain number of syllables in it

Confused? Don't worry. Turn over the page to find out more.

- Words are made up of syllables.
 - The word **bird** only has one syllable
 - The word **apple** has two syllables: ¹app-²le
 - The word **football** also has two syllables: ¹foot-²ball
 - The word **remember** has three syllables: ¹re-²mem-³ber
- Each line of a haiku poem has a certain number syllables
 - The first line has 5
 - The second line has 7
 - The third line has 5

Here is an example to help you remember. You can count out each syllable as you read it.

I am first with five

¹ 2 3 4 5

I am first with five

Then seven in the middle -

¹ 2 3 4 5 6 7

Then se-ven in the mid-dle -

Five again to end

¹ 2 3 4 5

Five ag-ain to end

See, it's not so hard. Now try some haiku poetry of your own.

A few haiku examples (by Ross Gardner)

The gathering dusk;
Just the slightest breath of wind
Creaking the grey wood.

Cold spring rain falls,
but the blossoming willow
reminds me of warmth.

A grey wind blows in;
The birds scattered on the shore
Somehow seem smaller.

A storm approaching?
Only the giant chestnut
Swallowing the wind.

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by _____

Remember to have the right number parts or syllables to each line

5 in the 1st line, 7 in the 2nd line, 5 in the 3rd line

And it does not have to rhyme