

Activity

CAN YOU DO HAIKU TOO?

Find out about the type of poetry called haiku and write your own.

What should I do?

Learn what haiku poetry is

With an adult or someone else who can help to read the slides, watch the short YouTube video *Haiku Poetry* by The Quiet Creative: <https://safeYouTube.net/w/ZZ7M>.

Haiku Poems from Becky Moore at <https://safeYouTube.net/w/va8M> is also helpful and worth a watch.

Practise counting and clapping the syllables in your name: Re- be- cca (3), Ja- mal (2), Jake (1).

In short, a haiku...

- is a type of Japanese poem;
- has 3 lines;
- uses a strict number of syllables in each line: 5-7-5;
- doesn't rhyme;
- is traditionally about nature (but nowadays can be about whatever you like).

Read/listen to examples of haiku

There are quite a few books and poems you can listen to online for some examples of haiku. We like these two in particular that have lots of haikus, one after another, to tell a story:

- *A Cat Named Haiku*_ Short a lovely animated short for kids by Arcana Studio (based on the Arcana graphic novel *A Cat Named Haiku* by Mark Poulton and Dexter Weeks): <https://safeYouTube.net/w/Be8M>
- *Boo! Haiku* by Deanna Caswell, illustrated by Bob Shea, from Clinton Public Library, Indiana: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9RyCEC1pLCg>

Here are a few more examples:

Summer has arrived:
in England, it brings the rain
amongst hotter days.

Poppy field in June –
vibrant scarlet petticoats
dance among the wheat.

I love my puppy
though he chews my socks,
discards them, holey

Now you do haiku too!

Pick one of the summer pictures from the resources at the end. You're going to write a haiku poem about something you can see or imagine here.

With an adult to help you, try making a mind map or word web first to collect some good vocabulary choices for your poem, like the example on the right.

When you have written your haiku, write some more! You could use the same picture, a different picture this time, or you may like to write them on a topic of your choice.

Remember to read your haikus back out loud to check and correct your spellings.



Share your work

How might you share your work with your friends and your teacher(s)? Can you film yourself reading your haikus, or take photographs, make a slide show, email or upload to a shared area?

You can tweet what you've been up to using the Twitter handle @BabcockLDPEng and the hashtag #BabcockEnglishAtHome.

IMPORTANT: If you decide to share your finished work publicly, just remember everything you have been taught about staying safe online, and do check with the person who looks after you before posting anything.

Things that could help me

If you are stuck for ideas when writing, try thinking about...

- what you can see (colours, objects, shapes, movements)
- what you might hear
- how it could feel to be there (your mood, the temperature, the touch of things)

...and make a list. Then find some words that mean the same or similar to what you've written, e.g. all the names you can think of for 'green'.

Change it up!
...Go further!

- A) Online poetry generators can be quite fun to try, though they don't always produce the best writing so you'll probably need to do some editing! Why not have a go? You can use something like <https://www.poem-generator.org.uk/haiku/> but you may need to ask someone to help you fill it in. It will ask you for...
- A time or year, time of day or setting (e.g. summer, morning, beach)
 - An adjective to describe that time or place (e.g. sunny, pleasant)
 - Two singular nouns that you would not usually expect to find in the same sentence (e.g. frog, chocolate)
 - Another adjective (e.g. little, hairy)
 - A verb (e.g. sings, runs)
- B) With your parent's permission, watch Sokka's Haiku Battle at <https://safeYouTube.net/w/Df8M> (from an episode in Avatar: The Last Airbender). Sokka and the woman he faces have a conversation all in haiku. Find somebody willing to battle you... Can you rise to the challenge and do the same? Who is the first to drop or add a syllable, or break other 'rules' such as rhyming?!
- C) Write a series of haikus to tell a story, like *A Cat Named Haiku* does.

Notes for parents and teachers

There are a number of video clips available on YouTube that your child may be interested in watching. Those suggested here have all been vetted as appropriate for children but you will still need to moderate your child's use of YouTube. (Some of the writing is read aloud better than others!)

- Sokka's Haiku Battle from SuperNakedBacon at <https://safeYouTube.net/w/Df8M> is an episode in *Avatar: The Last Airbender* (PG) where Sokka is challenged to out-haiku his opponent and impress the girls!
- Haiku | Poems about Nature | Poems in English by Zen Rush at <https://safeYouTube.net/w/Uf8M>. (This person has lots of YouTube videos of haiku).
- *Won Ton A Cat Tale Told in Haiku* by Lee Wardlaw, from Ader Family Homeschoolers: <https://safeYouTube.net/w/ng8M>.

Children's' use of the online poetry generator will require adult supervision as the site has the following disclaimer: 'Please note: this generator brings in words from an external source, which can occasionally include potentially offensive content'.



