

Vocab Activity – Haiku Poem

Vocabulary Collectors

A *haiku* is an English imitation of a Japanese poetry format. The traditional Japanese *haiku* contains seventeen syllables expressed in three lines. *Haikus* are often about mankind's connections to nature, to the seasons of life, or they *juxtapose* two seemingly unrelated objects. All in just seventeen syllables!



俳句
haiku

Juxtapose

- to place close together or side by side, especially for comparison or contrast.

Examples

- Black and white photos
- Small person, big world

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A Haiku:

A haiku is a **three-line poem, consisting of seventeen syllables.**

The first line **has five syllables**, the **second line has seven**, and the **third has five.**

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sun haiku

Oh, powerful sun (5)

When juxtaposed with our Earth, (7)

We seem small indeed. (5)



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In the twilight rain
These brilliant-hued hibiscus --
A lovely sunset.

-- Matsuo Basho (1644-1694)

Toward those short trees
We saw a hawk descending
On a day in spring.

-- Masaoka Shiki (1867-1902)



Over the wintry
forest, winds howling in rage
with no leaves to blow.

-- Natsume Soseki (1867-1916)

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Check out the following student samples.
Decide if they should earn a 3 or a 4:

Online Student Samples to Analyze:

[Sample #1 - Hannah](#)

[Sample #2 - Joseph](#)

[Sample #3 - Natalie](#)

[Sample #4 - Cole](#)

[Sample #5 - Chris](#)

[Sample #6 - Pat](#)

Haiku Success Criteria:

- ☐ All the words are spelled correctly
- ☐ The vocab word is underlined
- ☐ The haiku juxtaposes two unrelated items **OR** links to nature somehow
- ☐ The haiku uses the **5-7-5 syllable pattern**
- ☐ The haiku is **neatly** presented in a colourful or visual way
- ☐ I have included all the required elements of a vocab entry (*definition in own words, found, part of speech*)