

Famous Japanese Haiku

Read famous poems penned by early Japanese haiku masters below.

Each poem has been translated. In English, the poems do not follow a 5-7-5 syllable theme, but they maintain a beautiful rhythm and theme.

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An old silent pond...
A frog jumps into the pond,
splash! Silence again.
– Matsuo Bashō

From time to time
The clouds give rest
To the moon-beholders.
– Matsuo Bashō

Blowing from the west
Fallen leaves gather
In the east.
– Yosa Buson

Over the wintry
Forest, winds howl in rage
With no leaves to blow.
– Natsume Soseki