

How to Write a Haiku Poem

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Learning to write a haiku is easy, but it can take a lot of practice to learn how to do it well. This lesson will give you the basics for writing your own haiku.

WHAT IS A HAIKU?

A haiku is an unrhymed three-line poem. They are short poems that describe one moment in time, usually in present tense. It tells a story or makes a picture in your mind of something that happens in nature. It is based on a traditional Japanese poetic form. Though there are different ways to write haiku, the traditional pattern in English is to write the first and last lines with five syllables each, and the middle line with seven syllables. The pattern of syllables looks like this:

Line 1: 5 syllables
Line 2: 7 syllables
Line 3: 5 syllables

One more thing to keep in mind is that the last line of a haiku usually makes an observation. That is, the third line points out something about the subject you are writing about.



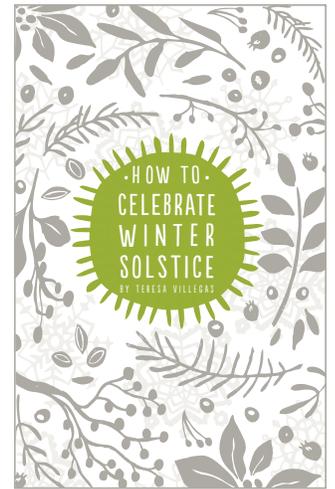
WHAT TO DO

Let's say that you decide to write your haiku about the winter season. In the first and second lines you might want to describe how winter feels, or compare it with something else. The last line you can make an observation about it. Here is an example:

Winter time is fun.
Snowflakes falling from the sky.
Let's get our mittens!

If you count the syllables on your fingers as you read this poem, you will see that the lines have five syllables, seven syllables, and five syllables, just as they should.

Start by selecting a topic, and then decide what you want to say in the first two lines and what observation you want to make about it in the last line. After writing your first haiku, try writing another one about a different topic. And, most importantly, have fun!



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