

GUYKU



How to Write a Haiku

by Bob Raczka

Haiku poems are short. They are also fun to write. But writing a good haiku is not as easy as it looks. It takes practice. Here are some tips:

1. The form of a haiku is very simple:

- three lines
- five syllables in the first line
- seven syllables in the second line
- five syllables in the third line

2. Haiku poems are observations of nature.

Each one is about a specific season, and includes at least one season word. This can be the name of the season, like “winter”.

Winter must be here.
Every time I open my
mouth, a cloud comes out.

It can also be some other word that tells the reader what season it is, like “leaf”.

From underneath the
leaf pile, my invisible
brother is giggling.

For more fun with guyku, visit <http://www.guykuhaiku.com> and check out the book *Guyku*, written by Bob Raczka and illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds.

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3. A good haiku is not just an observation of nature.
It also expresses a mood or an emotion.

Hey, who turned off all
the crickets? I'm not ready
for summer to end.

4. To help express this mood or emotion, many haiku
include a comparison.

It's silent under
these pine boughs sagging with snow,
like hibernating.

5. We experience nature with all of our senses.
So don't just write about what you see. Write about
what you hear, smell, taste and touch. In this haiku,
I used my sense of hearing.

Skip, skip, skip, skip, plunk!
Five ripple rings in a row—
my best throw ever!

In this one, I used my sense of touch.

I free grasshopper
from his tight, ten-fingered cage—
he tickles too much!

6. Try to write about an experience everyone
has had, like flying a kite. But describe it in
a new way, like playing tug-of-war.

The wind and I play
tug-of-war with my new kite.
The wind is winning.

7. Also, try using personification. This means to talk about something that isn't a person, like a tree, as if it was a person.

Pine tree invites me
to climb him up to the sky.
How can I refuse?

In this haiku, I personify a puddle.

If this puddle could
talk, I think it would tell me
to splash my sister.

8. Many haiku are serious. But they can also be funny.

Mosquito lands on
my cheek. I try to slap her,
but I just slap me.

9. Haiku are always written in the present tense.
In other words, whatever you write about,
it's happening now.

I watch the worms squirm
and decide to bait my hook
with hot dog instead.

10. Finally, the best way to get ideas for haiku is
to go outside and play. The more you experience nature,
the more you'll have to write about!



Good luck!