

## A Traditional Haiku:

This summary of the Haiku comes from <http://WritingFix.org>

**Hey Writers and Teachers!** Here's our down and dirty explanation of what a HAIKU is. There are plenty of on-line celebrations of the Haiku. Just type Haiku into Google, and you'll have more examples than you know what to do with.

In Japan, Haikus are valued for their lightness, simplicity, openness, and depth. In creating Haikus in English, these are your basic rules:

- Use no more than 17 syllables per Haiku
- Arrange these in lines of 5-7-5 syllables
- Avoid similes and metaphors
- Retain Japanese values of lightness, simplicity, openness, and depth

Some sample haikus from the Internet:

<p><b>Dog Haiku</b> (from <a href="http://www.yuckles.com/bellyup.htm">http://www.yuckles.com/bellyup.htm</a>)</p> <p>I lie belly-up In the sunshine, happier than You ever will be.</p> <p>--Anonymous Author</p>	<p><b>Computer Haiku</b> (<a href="http://www.toyomasu.com/haiku/#computers">http://www.toyomasu.com/haiku/#computers</a>)</p> <p>Alone, on the web, drops of sensitivity embrace an eyelash</p> <p>--Chris Spruck</p>
<p><b>Untitled</b> (from <a href="http://nyny.essortment.com/howtowritehai_rqau.htm">http://nyny.essortment.com/howtowritehai_rqau.htm</a>)</p> <p>The lightning flashes! And slashing through the darkness, A night-heron's screech.</p> <p>-- Matsuo Basho</p>	<p><b>Cat Haiku</b> (from <a href="http://www.nanceestar.com/CatHaiku.html">http://www.nanceestar.com/CatHaiku.html</a>)</p> <p>The rule for today: Touch my tail, I shred your hand. New rule tomorrow.</p> <p>--Nancee Belshaw</p>

### Student Sample Haikus

<p><b>Civil War Haiku</b></p> <p>Only a horse died Before the white flag fluttered Over Fort Sumter</p> <p>--Melissa W.</p>	<p><b>Astronomy Haiku</b></p> <p>Chaotic rhythms Aurora Borealis mythic Northern Night</p> <p>--Jake T.</p>	<p><b>Geometry Haiku</b></p> <p>A hypotenuse Is on the opposite side Of a right angle.</p> <p>--Brian J.</p>
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