

Writing Haiku

Do you know what haiku is? Haiku is a Japanese verse pattern. Like Japanese paintings and other Japanese art, many haiku verses are about nature. Haiku is a poetic expression of something beautiful.



Here are some examples of haiku which have been translated to English:

*Wonderful old tree
You gave shade all summer long;
Now your leaves are gone*



*Stay, snowflake, please stay!
I shall never find again
Beauty such as this.*



Write the patterns of the *syllables* in the following way:

____ _ _ _ _
____ _ _ _ _ _ _
____ _ _ _ _

There are five syllables in the first and third lines and seven in the second line. Can you describe or express a feeling about the animal you imagined in the storm in exactly seventeen syllables? You will enjoy the challenge of trying to make your thoughts fit the haiku pattern.