

HAIKU TEACHING KIT - The British Haiku Society

Exploring Haiku

Introduction: A lesson plan for Junior School Children (Key Stage Two)

In order to best suit a range of different abilities, this lesson plan is divided into a number of tasks. You may decide to use all of them over a period of time, or select those that are most appropriate to your class needs.

The tasks should be achievable by children from Years Three to Six, but you may need to adapt some of the vocabulary for younger children, for children with English as an Additional Language (EAL) and for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

The main structure of the lesson is contained in Task Three, but all six tasks are interchangeable. A mix and match approach is the best way to provide a stimulating experience for your children. There is scope in tasks five and six for some children to go further and achieve some idea of mastery (in an educational sense).

The links across the curriculum in Key Stage Two are varied. Finished haiku are the basis for some great art projects, and naturally link to calligraphy. The use of computer skills in the manipulation of haiku and their presentation is another area you might like to exploit. In one school a 'hide the haiku' competition was held in which haiku were written onto sticky notes and placed around the school for people to find.

Whatever method you use for presenting the children's haiku, make sure that it is a celebration of their success. Children love to see their work on display.

Preparation: It is useful to gather the following resources for the lesson or lessons:

- 1 Large colour or black and white prints or posters of startling images (landscapes, reportage photography, human studies, faces, startling events, wildlife).
- 2 If possible, an interactive whiteboard or digital overhead projector linked to a laptop / PC on which to display images.
- 3 A digital camera, smart phone or other device that can quickly transfer images to a viewing screen.
- 4 Lots of scrap paper for the children to jot ideas on.
- 5 Browse through the list of haiku included with this pack and note any that appeal to you for use in teaching. They include modern writers of haiku as well as great masters of Japanese haiku. Another source is *Blithe Spirit*, the quarterly journal of The British Haiku Society; there's also a booklist in this pack.
- 6 Possibly A4 print-outs of the full-size haiku in this kit to display (Visual Aids section). Or produce your own large-size print-outs from the list of haiku in Background section if you prefer.