

HAIKU TEACHING KIT - The British Haiku Society

Helping Creativity

The main teaching challenge that you will face at the writing stage is the response, “I don’t know what to write!”

If there are other adults in the room, ask them to provide support by giving guidance to the children on layout and vocabulary. For children who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) seeing haiku in their own languages can be helpful – see list of links in this pack.

If you want the children to produce original work (which should be the main goal) there is not really a way around this. However, the following questions might be helpful to get their ‘creative juices’ flowing:

- Have you ever been outside when it was snowing? What was it like? Start by writing down what you could see, hear and feel.

- What is your favourite time of the week? Start by writing down when it is, what you like about it, and where you are. Can you write a list of describing words and put them into an order?

- Do you like playing outside in the rain, or are you a person who likes to stay inside in the warm and watch it run down the window? How does heavy rain make you feel?

- Have you ever been to the seaside? What did you see there? Was it a warm or cold day? How close did you go to the sea? What kind of smells, sounds and sights do you remember about your visit?

Obviously, there will be some children who still draw a creative blank. As a last resort, you may need to give them a list of describing words that will form the basis of a good haiku and ask them to assemble them in order.

Key questions / statements that produce good results include:

- Don’t say bird when you can say sparrow / blackbird / eagle.

- Can you replace those three words with one better one?

- Do you need to say that at all?

- Remember that you are just trying to say one thing.

With the more able children you might want to ask them to provide three alternatives for the same experience, so that they can use editing skills to choose the best parts from each.

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Plenary

The plenary is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the successes of the children. It may take the form of an assembly, or a ceremony during which the finished work is brought up and displayed.

Key questions that will allow you to assess the children's learning:

Can anyone give me a definition of what a haiku is?

Can anyone tell me what a haiku is not?

Who would like to read a haiku aloud to the class?

Who wants to share a piece of work that they are pleased with?

Who has a nice piece of artwork to show that is linked to a haiku?

What have you learned about writing poetry today / this week?

Can anyone tell the class three important things to remember when writing poetry like this?

Useful links and sources

An increasing number of schools have provision for children who have English as an Additional Language (EAL). If you would like to start these children off by reading some haiku in their other language, the internet is the best place to start.

For French speakers:

<http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiku>

leonicat.club.fr/haiku/haiku.htm

<http://www.dmoz.org//World/Français/Arts/Littérature/Poésie/Haïku/>

For Polish speakers:

<http://pl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiku>

For Spanish speakers:

<http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haiku>

<http://haikujapones.iespana.es/>

For Portuguese speakers:

<http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haikai>

Haiku are published in Bulgaria, Croatia, India, Netherlands and many other countries. Simply search <haiku> and a country or language. Visit The British Haiku Society Facebook page and Facebook group for a lively international mix.

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Useful links and sources

The British Haiku Society bookshop at [http:// britishhaikusociety.org. uk](http://britishhaikusociety.org.uk) has a select list of publications, some of which are also available through other sources. We particularly recommend:

The Genius of Haiku - readings from R H Blyth, pub BHS 1994

Iron Book of British Haiku, ed David Cobb and Martin Lucas, Iron Press 1998

The Haiku Handbook, William J Higginson, pub Kodansha, 1985

Haiku World – an International Poetry Almanac, William J Higginson, pub Kodansha, 1996

A Silver Tapestry, the best of 25 years of critical writing from the British Haiku Society, ed Graham High pub BHS 2015

Links

These links to print publishers, web journals and online haiku resources are current at January 2017. For updates, please check the main Links page on [http:// britishhaikusociety.org. uk](http://britishhaikusociety.org.uk)

English-language haiku magazines and book publishers:

- **Frogpond**, Journal of the Haiku Society of America, Interim Editor: Christopher Patchel, 1036 Guerin Road, Libertyville, IL 60048, USA frogpondhsa@gmail.com
- **Mayfly**, Editors: Randy and Shirley Brooks, Brooks Books, 3720 Woodridge Drive, Decatur, IL 62526, USA brooksbooks@gmail.com
- **Modern Haiku**, Modern Haiku Editor: Paul Miller, PO Box 930, Portsmouth RI 02871-0930, USA modernhaiku@gmail.com
- **Presence**, Editors: Ian Storr and Matthew Paul; 75 Glebe Road, Sheffield, S10 1FB, United Kingdom haikupresence@gmail.com
- **Snapshot Press**, Ed. John Barlow, UK publisher of haiku and tanka anthologies and collections <http://www.snapshotpress.co.uk>
- **Red Moon Press** (Jim Kacian), Red Moon Press, P.O. Box 2461, Winchester, VA 22604-1661, USA <http://www.redmoonpress.com>
- **Time Haiku**, Editor: Diana Webb, dianawebb46@gmail.com

Web journals:

- **cattails**, <http://www.unitedhaikuandtankasociety.com/index.html> [features haiku by young people age 18 and under]
- **Under the Basho**, <http://www.underthebasho.com/>
- **Simply Haiku**, <http://www.simplyhaiku.com>
- **Haibun Today**, <http://www.haibuntoday.com/>
- **Contemporary Haibun Online**, <http://contemporaryhaibunonline.com>
- **The Heron's Nest**, <http://www.theheronsnest.com>
- **Skylark**, <http://skylarktanka.weebly.com/>
- **A Hundred Gourds**, <http://www.ahundredgourds.com/>
- **Bones** – a journal for contemporary haiku, <http://www.bonesjournal.com/>
- **Acorn**, <https://acornhaiku.com/>
- **Akitsu Quarterly**, <http://www.wildgraces.com/Akitsu-Quarterly.html>
- **brass bell: a haiku journal**, <http://brassbellhaiku.blogspot.co.uk/>
- **hedgerow**, <https://hedgerowpoems.wordpress.com/>
- **moongarlic E-zine**, <http://www.moongarlic.org/>
- **The Mamba Journal**, Editors: Adjei Agyei-Baah and Emmanuel Jessie Kalusian, africahaikunetwork@gmail.com

Additional internet resources:

- **AHA poetry** – Jane Reichhold, <http://www.ahapoetry.com/>
- **Haijinx**, <https://www.facebook.com/haijinx-308349155781/>
- **Another kind of poetry**, <http://www.anotherkindofpoetry.org.uk/anotherkind/>
- **dmoz** (ed. William J Higginson)
http://www.dmoz.org/Arts/Literature/Poetry/Forms/Haiku_and_Related_Forms
- **Living Haiku Anthology** <http://livinghaikuanthology.com/>
- **The American Haiku Archive**, California State Library, Sacramento, California, USA
<http://www.americanhaikuarchives.org/>
- **The Haiku Foundation**, <http://www.thehaikufoundation.org/>
- **With Words** promotes literacy and literature through haiku with workshops and events. <http://www.withwords.org.uk>
- **THF World of Haiku**, <http://www.thehaikufoundation.org/the-haiku-foundation-world-of-haiku/>
- **Gendai Haiku**, <http://gendaihaiku.com/>

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