

HAIKU TEACHING KIT - The British Haiku Society

HAIKU WORKSHEETS

Here are four worksheets to prompt the writing of haiku – especially useful when you hit the ‘I don’t know what to write!’ challenge. Students can still feel stuck even after familiarisation (Task One) and lots of stimulating pictures and talk. These worksheets can help get things going.

Use of worksheets is mentioned in Tasks Two and Five – but feel free to use them wherever you wish.

Included here:

A Haiku Sequence

Haiku Writing Machine (two versions)

Pick Your Own Haiku

Section 6 of this kit offers other sources for Helping Creativity.

Section 8 provides A4 posters of nine haiku

Section 3, Background, gives examples of classic and contemporary haiku.

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A HAIKU SEQUENCE (Task Five)

TASK

To write a series of four haiku based on the seasons Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter.

STEP ONE

Gather together a word bank for each season. Collect words that have only to do with one season.

STEP TWO

Think about what the weather is like in each season. Collect up weather words that match a season. Think about special weather memories that you have. Jot down anything you think is remarkable or worth writing about.

STEP THREE

Start on the haiku that you are going to find hardest to write. Is it easier to write about Summer and Winter? What is Autumn like? What is Spring like?

STEP FOUR

Write your haiku for each season.

STEP FIVE

Look through what you have written. Are there any words which are not necessary? Cross them out.

Are there any words that can be replaced by better words? Cross them out and put better words in.

STEP SIX

Re-write your haiku in order. It does not matter which one you start with, but they must go in the order that the seasons arrive.

STEP SEVEN

If you have enough material, continue the sequence to eight haiku by adding another haiku for each season.

STEP EIGHT

A haiku sequence can be about anything. Can you write a sequence about a day? Start with an early morning haiku, and write a haiku for each special part of your day.

Haiku Writing Machine (example a)

Alternative to Task Two.

Can't think what to write?
Follow these simple instructions.

LINE ONE

Write a sentence about something remarkable, amazing, sad, interesting, beautiful, or odd that you have seen, heard, smelled or felt recently.

LINE TWO

Say something more about it – **describe** it using one phrase.

LINE THREE

Make a comment about it, or an extra little sentence about the situation. It doesn't *have* to be directly to do with your subject.

EXAMPLE

COLLECT ALL THE WORDS YOU WANT TO USE BEFORE YOU BEGIN

rain, blackbird, puddles, splashing, tree

LINE ONE walking in the pouring rain
LINE TWO I hear a blackbird calling from a treetop
LINE THREE - my boots squelch through the puddles

NEXT, TRY TO CHANGE SOME WORDS AND REMOVE SOME THAT YOU DO NOT NEED.

LINE ONE walking in pouring rain
LINE TWO blackbird chortling defiantly from his songpost
LINE THREE - my boots sloshing through puddles

LAST, TAKE AWAY ANY WORDS THAT ARE NOT REALLY IMPORTANT AND SEE IF THE HAIKU WORKS WITHOUT THEM

LINE ONE walking in pouring rain
LINE TWO blackbird chortling defiantly above
LINE THREE - boots sloshing through puddles

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Haiku Writing Machine (example b)

Alternative to Task Two

Can't think what to write?
Follow these simple instructions.

LINE ONE

Write a sentence about something remarkable, amazing, sad, interesting, beautiful, or odd that you have seen, heard, smelled or felt recently.

LINE TWO

Say something more about it – **describe** it using one phrase.

LINE THREE

Make a comment about it, or an extra little sentence about the situation. It doesn't *have* to be directly to do with your subject.

EXAMPLE

COLLECT ALL THE WORDS YOU WANT TO USE BEFORE YOU BEGIN

night, stars, cold, clear, owl, hoot, breeze, laughter

LINE ONE I was alone looking at stars last night
LINE TWO When far away I could hear laughter from a party
LINE THREE - then an owl hooted.

NEXT, TRY TO CHANGE SOME WORDS AND REMOVE SOME THAT YOU DO NOT NEED.

LINE ONE Alone looking at the stars last night
LINE TWO Laughter from a party far away
LINE THREE - an owl hooting.

LAST, TAKE AWAY ANY WORDS THAT ARE NOT REALLY IMPORTANT AND SEE IF THE HAIKU WORKS WITHOUT THEM

LINE ONE Star-gazing
LINE TWO distant laughter from a party
LINE THREE - hoot of owl on the breeze

PICK YOUR OWN HAIKU

Where you see several words in a box, choose the one you think sounds best. The words in the first set of boxes give you line one of a haiku, those from the second set of boxes line two and those from the third set of boxes line three.

When you have chosen the words you like, write the whole haiku out and say it to yourself, to see if it sounds good. If you have time, write several different versions and see which you prefer.

Be ready to read your haiku to the class.

Write Here



<i>Line 1</i>	evening	by the	river,
	sunset		stream,
	sundown		brook,
	dusk		water,
	twilight		bourne,
	late afternoon		

<i>Line 2</i>	blood-	coloured varnished painted lacquered	toenails
	red-		
	scarlet-		
	crimson-		
	vermillion-		
	tomato-		
cherry-			

<i>Line 3</i>	slipping	in into in the	sand
	settling		silt
	vanishing		sludge
	sinking		mud
	sliding		squidge
