

Haiku poetry

Kilde: <http://www.toyomasu.com/haiku/>

Haiku is one of the most important forms of traditional Japanese poetry. Haiku is, today, a 17-syllable verse form consisting of three metrical units of 5, 7, and 5 syllables.

**First autumn morning:
the mirror I stare into
shows my father's face.**

By Murakami, Kijo. (1865-1938).

What to write about

Haiku-poems can describe almost anything, but you seldom find themes which are too complicated for normal people's recognition and understanding. Some of the most thrilling Haiku-poems describe daily situations in a way that gives the reader a brand new experience of a well-known situation.

Express a single mood or emotion in your haiku.

The classic haiku theme is nature, so try using nature-based imagery as well as your own themes when you write a haiku.

Avoid using figures of speech and abstractions. The haiku is more powerful if it is a statement of fact.

The Haiku usually presents something to be experienced by the senses, touch, taste and sight but even the Japanese abandoned the traditional subject matter of the Haiku after admiring European and American versions of the form.

Writing Haiku is an excellent exercise in condensation in poetry. You only have three lines to make your reader see, sense and feel your experience; your words need to pack power. The form is not as important as the style of saying a great deal with few words and you can gain skill in imagery with practice.

This means you avoid words that interpret what you experience, such as saying something is "beautiful" or "mysterious," and stick to words that objectively convey the facts of what you see, hear, smell, taste, and touch. Instead of writing about your reactions to what happens, in a good haiku you write about

those things that cause your reactions. This way your readers can experience the same feelings you felt, without your having to explain them.

The metrical pattern of Haiku

Haiku-poems consist of respectively 5, 7 and 5 syllables in three units/lines.

Each Haiku should contain a ***kigo***, a season word, which indicate in which season the Haiku is set. For example, cherry blossoms indicate spring, snow indicates winter, and mosquitoes indicate summer, but the season word isn't always that obvious.

Your assignment

You are going to write your own haiku, making sure that you follow the rules mentioned above. When you have finished the poem, you are going to transfer it into one of the Adobe programs (Photoshop, InDesign or Illustrator) and use colors, fonts, graphic elements or photographs (these **must** be your own, or something that you have had the permission to use, remember the rules of copyright!) to enhance the message and atmosphere in your poem. Take into consideration **readability** and the **principles of composition (i.e. contrast, movement, balance, unity...)**, which you have learned about in the subject Mediedesign og medieuttrykk.

Go out and find inspiration from nature, online, or from the “How to read and understand poetry”-part of your book, page 40.

You will get three lessons to work with your poem and the layout. If you are not able to finish (or if you are absent), you must work with the assignment at home. There are no exceptions to the deadline.

The poems will be included in an exhibition in the hall of the Media & Communication's Department.

The finished product should be handed in no later than Monday the 12th of November. Format: Landscape (liggende). Your grade will be based on how you have been able to follow the instructions on how to write a Haiku and finally on how well the final product works in terms of design and relevance between

poem and layout.

How efficiently you worked in the assignment period will be part of a teacher-pupil conversation.

An old silent pond...

A frog jumps into the pond,

splash! Silence again.

by Basho (1644-1694)

Good luck with writing your own haiku poem!