

HAIKU POETRY

Haiku is a form of poetry developed in Japan. A haiku usually has seventeen syllables in three lines of five, seven and five syllables. The poet tries to capture a simple scene from nature and to convey his/her strong feeling about it. The haiku should contain a seasonal word or suggest a season.

Syllable: a word or part of a word pronounces a unit of spoken language. Usually consists of a vowel alone, or a vowel with one or more consonants. Syl - la - ble Rid - dle sum - ma - rize

Two classic Japanese haiku and their syllabic breakdown:

An old silent pond....

An / old / si / lent / pond
1 2 3 4 5

A frog jumps into the pond,

A / frog / jumps / in / to / the / pond
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

splash! Silence again.

Bashō (1644-1694)

Splash! / si / lence / a / gain
1 2 3 4 5

Over the wintry

O / ver / the / win / try
1 2 3 4 5

Forest, winds howl in a rage

for / est / winds / howl / in / a / rage
1 2 3 4 5 6 7

With no leaves to blow.

Soseki (1275-1351)

With / no / leaves / to / blow
1 2 3 4 5

MY HAIKU WORKSHEET

Theme from Nature _____

Which season does the poem express? _____

SYLLABLE BREAKDOWN WORKSHEET

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

_____ / _____ / _____ / _____