

Haiku

"Haiku is simply what is happening in this place, at this moment." –Basho

What is Haiku?

- A short Japanese poem consisting of three lines.
 - The first line contains five syllables, the second contains seven, and the third line contains five. (Although, at times, this aspect is lost in translation.)
 - The poem should focus on nature. Violence and similar behaviors have no place in haiku.
 - Haiku should be written in present tense.
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Examples

Fallen petals rise
Back to the branch—
Oh butterflies!

Red dragonflies!
Take off their wings,
And they are pepper pods.

Summer grass:
All that's left
Of warrior's dreams.

With stiff limbs I wake;
Autumn grasses bent with dew,
So heavy with light.

On the temple bell
A moonmoth, folded into sleep,
Sits still.

On a withered branch
A crow has settled—
Autumn nightfall.

The least of breezes
Blows and the dry sky is filled
With the voice of pines.

Haiku/Origami Assignment

The Assignment

- Now that you know what haiku is, your assignment is to compose an original haiku poem. Remember to follow the traditional 5-7-5 form, and to choose a traditional haiku topic.
 - Once you have composed a haiku, write the poem (using permanent marker or pen) onto an origami "creation" that you make. I have photocopies of several origami patterns—nesting crane, flower, swan, bird, cicada, and turtle. Feel free to choose any of the patterns and any color of computer paper.
 - When we are finished with our origami/haiku creations, they will be displayed on the class bulletin board; so, use your effort and creativity!
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Haiku/Origami will be graded on the following:

- Haiku is original and follows the correct poetry format (15 points)
 - Origami was created by correctly following written instructions (10 points)
- TOTAL ___/25 points
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Sample "Starters"

- Tall jade blades of grass...
- Lightly, wind whispers...
- The mountain rises...

