

# Writing Haikus

## Grade Level 9-12

**Time of Activity** This lesson will take approximately forty-five minutes. It can be extended depending on how long you want to spend on writing haikus and sharing the writing with the class.

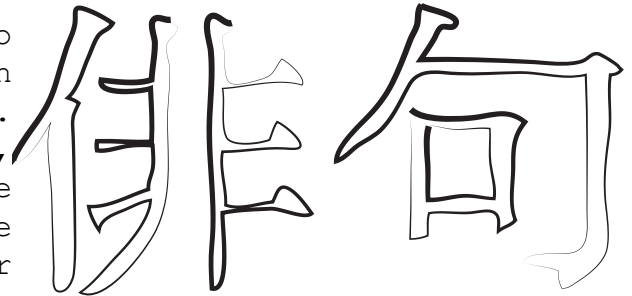
### Common Core State Standards

**W.3. (9th-10th grade)** Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.

d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.



### W. 3. (11th-12th grade)

Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

b. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.

c. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole and build toward a particular tone and outcome (e.g., a sense of mystery, suspense, growth, or resolution).

d. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.

**Learning Outcomes** After completing this activity students will be able to define, identify, and write a haiku. They'll learn to connect a piece of prose with a piece of their own poetry. They'll gain experience in experimenting with language and orally presenting their own work.



# Writing Haikus

## Materials

Model Haikus

Each student will need:

A copy of the short story,  
"Seventeen Syllables"

A copy of the

**Practice Writing Haikus** handout

Writing materials/ Computer

## Activities

Setup. Ask the students to read "Seventeen Syllables" by Hisaye Yamamoto, either as a class or independently. Then introduce haikus to the students; define it and show them examples of haikus.

**Step 1** Distribute the Practice Writing Haikus handouts to the students. Explain to the students that they are going to write haikus. Review directions and expectations.

**Step 2** Do the pre-writing step in class. Ask students to free write or draw a description of something important that has happened to them during the past week.

**Step 3** Ask a few students to share their responses with the rest of the class.

**Step 4** Assign the writing component for homework or allow students to write the haikus in class.

**Step 5** Ask each student to submit their favorite or 'best' haiku. Invite a few students to read their haikus to the rest of the class; then discuss them.

**Step 6** Publish student work by creating a class magazine or bulletin board.

**Evaluation** Grade the students' haikus based on:

- Following the specified line pattern
- Following the specified syllable pattern
- Writing three different haikus, all focusing on the same event



# Writing Haikus

## Practice Writing Haikus

"Seventeen Syllables" by Hisaye Yamamoto

### Pre-Writing

Please respond to the following prompt either through writing or making an illustration:

Describe something important that has happened to you in the past week.

### What is the pattern of a HAIKU?

A poem in which the writer must pack the entire meaning of the poem into a specific pattern of three lines.

the first line has	five syllables
the second line has	seven syllables
the third line has	five syllables



### Example of a Haiku

"Morning Sleep"

It is morning, and lo!  
I lie awake, so sleepy,  
Sighing for relief.

### Writing

Using your free write as a source of inspiration, write three different haikus that describe the important event that has happened in the past week.

Keep in mind that since you have specified a number of syllables and a specific pattern to follow, you must be highly selective in the words that you choose to use in your haiku. Feel free to use a thesaurus and choose descriptive and vivid words.

### Grading

The Haikus will be graded based on:

Following the specified pattern

Following the specified syllable pattern

Writing three different haikus, all focusing on the same event



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