



## Writing to Learn: Haiku

Use an artwork as a prompt for a haiku poem. This activity enables students to activate their imaginations, gives them a framework for connecting personally with art, and their critical observation skills.

**Grade Level:** College, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12

**Subject Area:** English, Visual Arts

**Activity Type:** Engagement Activity

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## HAIKU

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Use or adapt the following as a prompt for writing a haiku.

Haikus rose to popularity in Japan during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and they are now popular all over the world. A haiku relies on the rhythmic beats (syllables) of language. In a haiku, the first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables, and the third line has 5 syllables. Here's an example:

A mountain village  
under the piled-up snow  
the sound of water.  
-Masaoka Shiki

Try writing a haiku about a work of art. A template is below.

Five syllables  
Seven syllables  
Five syllables