

Haiku with Personification

Name: _____

Date: _____ Pd.: _____



Haiku is a verse form invented in Japan centuries ago. These concise poems have become popular with Americans because they are so simple and expressive.

A haiku is composed of three non-rhyming lines. In Japan, they must have only seventeen syllables—five in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third.

The magic of good haiku lies in the power of suggestion. The impact is like that of a pebble tossed into a pool. When writing haiku, exploit the power that lies at the heart of subtlety. A carefully-chosen word (think about multiple denotations and connotations), a small clue, a mere hint, a fleeting image (a sound, a scent, a taste) can communicate so much more meaning than a thousand careless words. Haiku should be suggestive as a whiff of expensive perfume.

Examples: Identify whether each of these poems follows the conventions (prescription) for the haiku form. Identify and analyze any literary devices and their effects on each poem.

The wintry wind blows
The blueness of its sharp breath
Chilling the earth's bones.

The hand of a leaf
Waves to each passerby
With carefree abandon.

Write your own haiku about nature. Employ personification.

Stuck? Try these steps:

1. Choose an element in nature that you like/don't like/fascinates you/etc.
2. Give it a conflict, an opposing force that creates tension.
3. Give it a human emotion and an action that shows/illustrates that emotion.

Student Example:

The daisy exhales
As a petal falls, slowly
Withering away
Emma S.

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