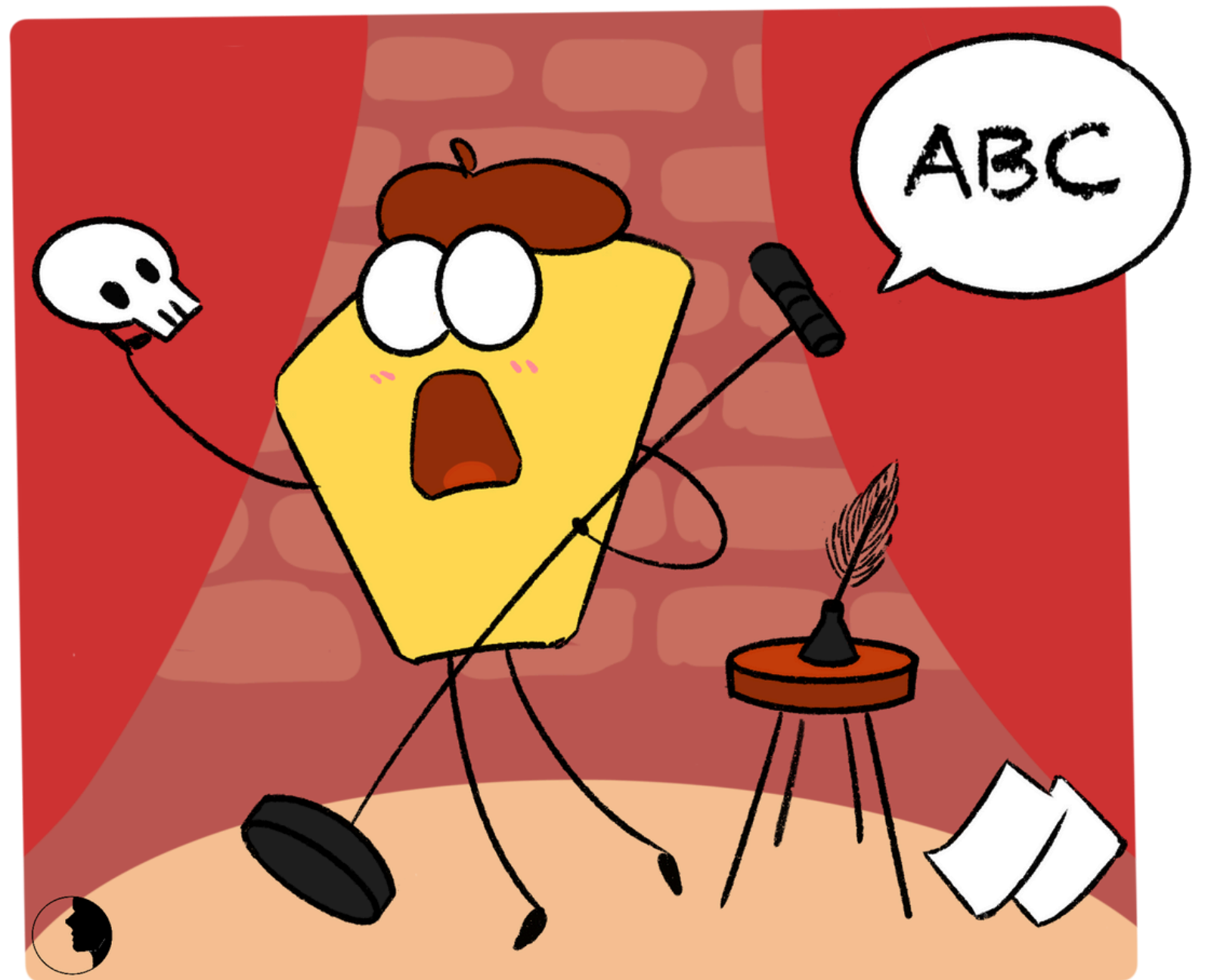


## A Haiku and You

5-7-5

Haikus are a form of poetry originating from Japan that are written in three lines. The first line of a haiku has five syllables, the second has seven syllables, and the third line has five. Haiku poems are often about nature, weather, or the seasons.



**Beginner:** Read a haiku together, stomping or clapping to each syllable.

**[Tip]:** Count the number of syllables on each line:

Sand scat-ters the beach (5)

Waves crash on the sand-y shore (7)

Blue water shim-mers (5)

- Kaitlyn Guenther

**Intermediate:** Write “What am I?” haikus and make a game of having your child guess the subject of each poem.

**[Tip]:** For example, a haiku about a frog:

Green and speckled legs, (5)

Hop on logs and lily pads (7)

Splash in cool water (5)

- Unknown author

**Experienced:** Encourage your child to write their own “What am I?” haikus.

**[Tip]:** Have fun writing haikus in all languages you know!

**Why is this important?** Speaking and hearing poetry develops literacy skills and appreciation.

**References:** Stone, L., & Gillen, J. (2008). White cars like mice with little legs: poetry in the early years. In J. Marsh, & E. Hallet (Eds.), *Desirable literacies: Approaches to language and literacy in the early years* (pp. 37-60). SAGE Publications Ltd, <https://www-doi-org.uwinnipeg.idm.oclc.org/10.4135/9781446279519.n3>