

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 haikus 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,

Hop on logs and lily pads

Splash in cool water.

- 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.

Looking for more information? Check out our websites resource all about Haiku poems.

References: Collins, P. (2008). Using poetry throughout the curriculum. Kappa Delta Pi Record, 44(2), 81–84. <https://doi-org.uwinnipeg.idm.oclc.org/10.1080/00228958.2008.10516500>.

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>