

# How to write a **HAIKU**

Haiku is a beautiful Japanese form of poetry that has been around for centuries! Haiku poems are about capturing the essence of a moment, often a moment in nature.

- Haiku have 3 lines
- Lines 1 and 3 often have 5 syllables
- Line 2 often has 7 syllables

Haiku don't have to rhyme. And if you don't fit the *exact* number of syllables, that's okay! The most important part of the haiku is the image.

Let's look at some examples by the haiku master, Matsuo Bashō (1644-1694), as well as some modern examples.

The old pond,  
A frog jumps in:  
Plop!

-translated by Alan Watts

Wake, butterfly—  
it's late, we've miles  
to go together.

-translated by Lucien Stryk

A wicked cage flew  
across the long horizon  
searching for a bird.

-by Rachel Wetzsteon

watermelon patch  
I let the weathered scarecrow  
try on my straw hat

-by Darrell Lindsey



IN THIS BOOK, PENNY  
WRITES A SCARY HAIKU  
OF HER OWN!

*Fear Maker weeds look  
like flowers till you get close  
and smell only rot.*

