**Haiku　はいく　俳句**

**What is haikuはいく?**

Haiku はいくis a Japanese poetry form. A haiku はいくuses just a few words to capture a moment and create a picture in the reader's mind. It is like a tiny window into a scene much larger than itself. Traditionally, haiku はいく is written in three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second line, and five syllables in the third line.

**Examples:**

Here's a haiku はいくpoem written by a poetry student:

The last winter leavesClinging to the black branchesExplode into birds.

Natsume Soseki lived from 1867 - 1916. He was a novelist and master of the haiku　はいく. Here are a couple of examples of his poems:

Over the wintry

forest, winds howl in rage

with no leaves to blow.

The crow has flown away:

swaying in the evening sun,

a leafless tree.

**Characteristics of haiku**

The following are typical of haiku はいく:

* A focus on nature.
* A "season word" such as "snow" which tells the reader what time of year it is.
* A division somewhere in the poem, which focuses first on one thing, than on another. The relationship between these two parts is sometimes surprising.
* Instead of saying how a scene makes him or her feel, the poet shows the details that caused that emotion. If the sight of an empty winter sky made the poet feel lonely, describing that sky can give the same feeling to the reader.

**How to write a haiku はいく- try it!**

1. Write two lines about something beautiful in nature. Take a picture out of a newspaper as inspiration. Don't worry about counting syllables yet.
2. Write a third line that is a complete surprise, that is about something completely different from the first two lines.
3. Look at the three lines together. Does the combination of these two seemingly unrelated parts suggest any surprising relationships? Does it give you any interesting ideas?
4. Now rewrite the poem, using the 5-syllable, 7-syllable, 5-syllable format and experimenting with the new ideas or perspectives that have occurred to you.

**Rough Draft #1:**

**Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Line 1(5 syllables):* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Line 2 (7 syllables):* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Line 3 (5 syllables):* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Rough Draft #2:**

**Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Line 1(5 syllables):* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Line 2 (7 syllables):* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

***Line 3 (5 syllables):* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**