

Poetry

Haiku is an unrhymed form of Japanese poetry that is three lines long. The first line often has five syllables; the second line, seven syllables; the third line, five syllables. Haiku often describes something in nature.



Literary Elements

Symbolism is the use of an everyday thing to stand for something more meaningful.

Metaphor is a comparison of two essentially unlike things.

Haiku

Snow-swallowed valley,
Only the winding river . . .
Black fluent brush stroke.
—Boncho

The winding river
is compared to a
painting's single
brush stroke.

A storm-wind blows—
out from among the grasses
the full moon grows.
—Chora

The sound of
water symbolizes
renewal and the
coming of spring.

A mountain village:
Under piled-up snow
the sound of water.
—Shiki

Connect and Compare



1. What else might Shiki have used to symbolize the coming of spring? **Symbolism**
2. How does the choice of season help convey the mood of these poems? How do the poems make you feel? **Evaluate**
3. Compare and contrast the weather and feelings of isolation described in these poems with that portrayed in *The Great Serum Race*. **Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Find out more about haiku at www.macmillanmh.com

WRITE A PERSUASIVE ESSAY

Writer's Craft

Vary Sentences

Good writers use different kinds of sentences. **Sentence variety** prevents your writing from becoming dull. If you have too many simple sentences, combine some into compound sentences.

I wanted to persuade people reading my essay to think about physical challenges.

I used different kinds of sentences. Some are long and some are short. Some sentences are simple, while others are compound.

Challenging Sports

by Tracy M.

What do you think about people who climb the world's tallest mountains or who ride their bikes for three weeks straight? Do you see these people as heroes? Or do you think they are wasting energy?

Challenges help us learn who we really are and how much discipline we have. You can learn a lot about yourself when you push yourself to the limit.

People might say that these sports are silly. Some might say that they are too dangerous, and others might say that you can fail. I say that the goal is not winning. The goal is learning.

Jesse Owens, the famous African American Olympic gold-medal winner, said, "In order to make dreams into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort." Striving after these kinds of physical challenges can teach you about yourself.

Your Turn

Write a persuasive essay about why it is or isn't valuable to participate in physically challenging events, such as a marathon. Take time to learn more about the event you choose and to identify the details that support your viewpoint. If possible, use an appositive to give more information about a person, word, or concept in your essay. When you edit your essay, check to see that you have used different kinds of sentences. Also use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I state my opinion clearly? Did I use supporting facts and details effectively?
- Organization:** Did I organize my paper in a logical way? Did I connect my ideas?
- Voice:** Did I write my essay with confidence? Will readers feel that I am talking directly to them?
- Word Choice:** Did I choose persuasive words to support my opinion?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I use **sentence variety** to add interest to my writing?
- Conventions:** Did I properly use commas with appositives? Did I check my spelling?