



Poetry

Haiku is poetry that uses three short lines to describe just one moment or scene. The first and third lines often have five syllables each, and the second line may have seven syllables.



Literary Elements

Imagery is the use of words to create a picture in the reader's mind.

Figurative Language goes beyond the usual meaning of words and uses them to describe something in a new way.

HAIKU

Winter solitude—
in a world of one color
the sound of wind.

—*Matsuo Basho*

The words “a world of one color” create a strong image of a snow-covered scene.

Mountains and plains,
all are captured by the snow—
nothing remains.

—*Joso*

No sky at all;
no earth at all—and still
the snowflakes fall....

—*Hashin*

The snow is melting
and the village is flooded
with children.

—*Kobayashi Issa*

Children do not really flood the village. This figurative language suggests they are running through the streets like water.

Connect and Compare



1. In the second haiku, by Joso, the word “captured” is figurative language. What has really happened to the mountains and plains? **Figurative Language**
2. Reread “No Sky at All,” by Hashin. What moment or scene does it describe? **Analyze**
3. When you read these poems, how do they make you feel about snow? How did you feel about snow when you read *Snowflake Bentley*? Compare the two feelings.

Reading/Writing Across Texts



Find out more about haiku at www.macmillanmh.com

Write a Character Sketch

Writer's Craft

Vary Sentences

Begin your writing with a topic sentence to let your reader know what you plan to discuss. Then use a **variety of sentences** to make your writing more interesting.

My New Character

by Sara K.

May Showers is the meteorologist I made up for my sitcom about a TV news station. Usually a man reports the weather. My meteorologist is a woman on my local TV news. I know you are picturing a heavy, happy weatherman, but May is slim, neatly dressed, and quiet. She doesn't get excited about the weather, except when it rains. Then she smiles, her eyes open wide, and she starts to bounce a little on her feet.

I like it when it rains, so my new character likes rain, too.



I began with a topic sentence.

In my character sketch, I included both short and long sentences.

Your Turn

Invent a fascinating, original character. Then write one or two paragraphs that describe that character. Include your character's name. Describe his or her appearance. Include details to help your readers see your character's special traits. Begin sentences in different ways to improve fluency. Use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Does my sketch include important and interesting details?
- Organization:** Did I begin with a topic sentence?
- Voice:** Does my paragraph show that I care about this character?
- Word Choice:** Have I chosen words that help the reader picture this character?
- Sentence Fluency:** Have I used a **variety of sentences** to make my writing interesting?
- Conventions:** Have I used irregular verbs, such as *do*, *does*, and *did*, correctly? Did I check my spelling?