



Poetry

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



Literary Elements

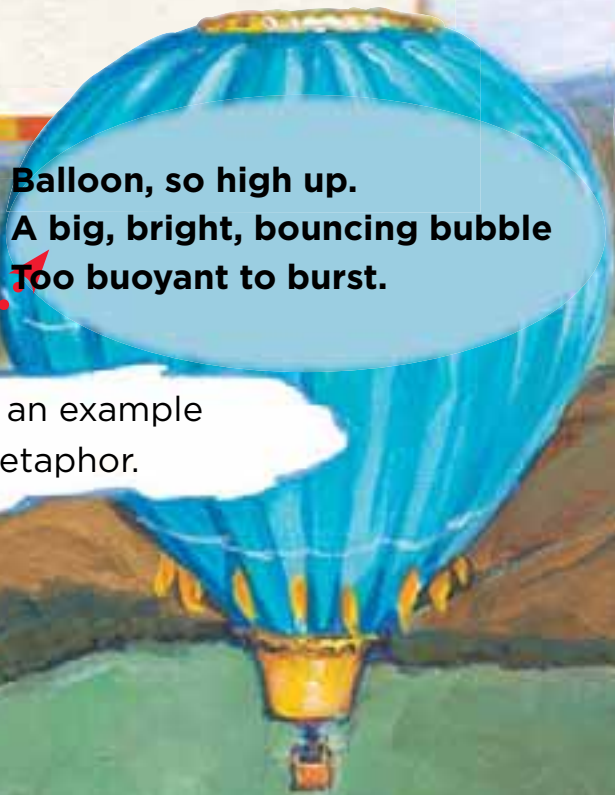
A **Simile** is a comparison of two essentially unlike things that uses the words *like* or *as*.

A **Metaphor** is a comparison of two essentially unlike things that does *not* use the words *like* or *as*.



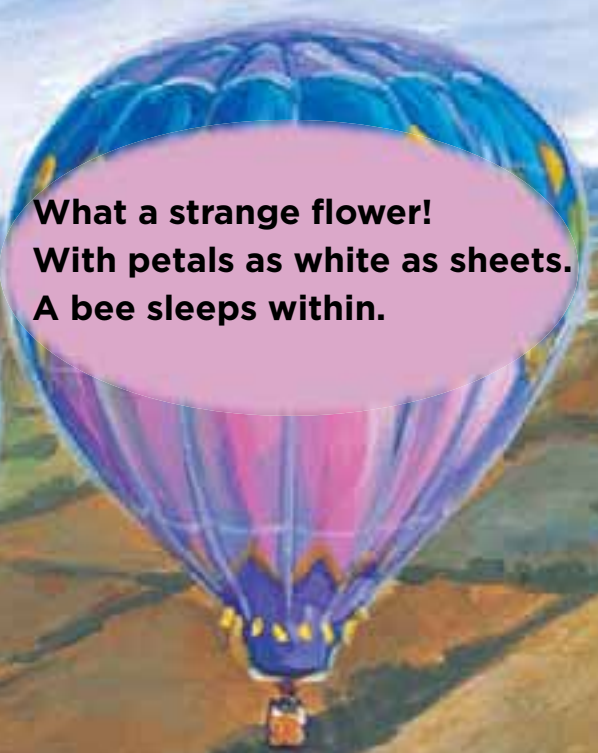
Hot-Air Balloon Haiku

by Rita Bristol



**Balloon, so high up.
A big, bright, bouncing bubble
Too buoyant to burst.**

This is an example
of a metaphor.



**What a strange flower!
With petals as white as sheets.
A bee sleeps within.**

What do clouds feel like
Floating above the balloon
As it takes you far?

It floats like freedom
In the hazy August light
Soon, though, it will land.

This is an example
of a simile.

Connect and Compare

1. Find another example of metaphor in one of the other haiku. **Metaphor**
2. How do these four haiku help readers get a stronger sense of seeing or being in a hot-air balloon? **Analyze**
3. What is the difference between the information in these haiku and the information presented in “Up in the Air”?



Find out more about haiku at www.macmillanmh.com

Writer's Craft

Rearrange Ideas

Writers have to know how something works to explain it clearly. They use everyday examples and sometimes need to **rearrange ideas** to explain complicated concepts more clearly. As you revise, you may want to move a sentence or paragraph.

Write to Explain How Something Works

How a Helium Balloon Floats

by Tamara E.

I carefully arranged the ideas in my explanation about how helium-filled balloons float.

I used an example from everyday life.

Have you ever wondered why the balloons we blow up with air from our lungs don't float up in the air? Balloons filled with helium from a tank float easily. Why is this? Think about what it means to float in a swimming pool. A 2-liter bottle filled with sand will sink to the bottom. However, that same bottle filled with air will float.

The same thing happens with the balloons you blow up yourself. The air inside the balloon is not lighter than the air outside, so it sinks. Helium gas actually weighs less than air, so helium balloons float up to the sky.



Your Turn

Write a short essay telling how something works. You might explain something you already know about. Or, you might decide to do research to find out how something works. As you write your explanation, remember that it has to make sense to anyone who will read it. Rearrange ideas if necessary. Use the writer's checklist to check your writing.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I select a topic that I can explain to others?
- Organization:** Did I **rearrange ideas** so that they fit together well?
- Voice:** Did I make my explanation clear by using examples from everyday life?
- Word Choice:** Did I use common words instead of complex, scientific terms?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I use prepositions to help my sentences and paragraphs flow well?
- Conventions:** Did I use commas correctly after introductory words? Did I proofread my spelling?