

Helpful Haiku Hints

Ideas to keep in mind when writing haiku...

1. Different Haiku Forms

- 3 Lines (short line, long line, short line)
- Syllable Structure (5 syllables in the first line, 7 syllables in the second line, 5 syllables in the last line) or 17 Syllables in Total
- One-Two Breaths in Length

2. Images

- In Nature
- Descriptive Language Using The Senses
- Can capture two separate images that are somehow connected

Old pond-
frog jumps in
sound of the water
-Matsuo Basho

2 images- old pond and frog
Sights- pond, frog, water
Sounds- sound of water

3. Season Word

- Winter River or Spring Rain

4. In the Moment

- Write haiku in the moment of the experience.

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5. Feeling, Surprise, Compassion

- “Lonely frog” or “Tiny frog sits in the rain” (relaying feeling/emotion)
- Element of surprise in the last line or moment of “ah”

hit by
a raindrop-
the snail closes up.
-Yosa Buson

-*The snail closes up* is the element of surprise or the “ah” moment. Usually some kind of movement or change occurs in the haiku that creates the element of surprise.