



Place-Based Haiku Poetry

Haiku: is a form of Japanese poetry made of short lines that suggest natural imagery. The original purpose of haiku poetry was a way to describe nature throughout the seasons. Haiku is most often written as a three-line poem, unrhymed, with a 5-7-5 syllable pattern.

Find a place to contemplate and meditate on the sensory experience that presents itself. You can do this from anywhere whether it be a nearby walking path, sitting at your front porch, gazing out your window, or cozy by a fireplace. Take note of the sensations and observations of your experience. Afterwards, transform your experience into poetry.

Sensations / Observations: (smell, sound, sight, taste, touch, temperature, movement)

Adjectives / Metaphors: (descriptive)

Emotional Response:



What feelings comes up for you?

What can we learn from the way nature evolves, expands, and seeks balance?

How do our observations and sensory experiences of our external world transfer to that of our internal world that seeks balance?

How might time in nature transfer to clarity of the mind and creativity?

When people in the future, look back at this time in history, what will they learn from us?

Free Write:

Poetry Exploration:

Brainstorm: physical sensations, observations, emotional response, imagine what it would be like to be a tree or a mountain enduring the seasons. Understand your purpose choose a subject, concept, sense of place, feeling, etc.

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Techniques to consider:

Convey feeling and use imagery that appeals to the senses.

Rhythmic flow: replace words that sound clunky with synonyms that provide better flow

Replace vague nouns and verbs with more descriptive or specific ones.

Change or eliminate adjectives or adverbs.



Examples of Haiku Poems:

Haiku Year (excerpt) By Paul Holmes

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NOVEMBER

Frosty webs sparkle

In the early morning sun

Brightly bejeweled.

DECEMBER

First few flakes of snow

Dust gardens like icing on

A chocolate cake.

By Candlelight By Paul Holmes

Yellow flame flickers

Shadows dance upon the wall

Love grows ever strong.

Over the Wintry by Natsume Sōseki

Over the wintry

Forest, winds howl in rage

With no leaves to blow.

Spirit Tapestry by Angie Schirtzinger

Symphony of sounds

The trees sway as leaves flutter

Air flows in motion.

Interwoven web

A Tapestry of colors

An invitation.



Autumn's Voice By Jamie Lee Hamann

Day turns night quickly

the chill welcoming my sleep

a season to sleep.

Season's colors mix

tints and hues beyond senses

rare abilities.

Deer on pine mountains

know of the coming Autumn

by sounds from its voice.

Drop of morning dew

has not dried from pine needles

before evening mist.



Poetry Write:

