

Art and Haiku


Haiku is a very important form of traditional Japanese poetry. Although the form and purpose of haiku began to change as the style spread to other countries, two basic principles of traditional Japanese haiku have remained through the years.

One principle is the structure: haiku is a three-line, 17-syllable poem. The first and last lines have five syllables each, and the middle line has seven. The other principle, called *kigo*, is the use of a word or phrase associated with a season. For example, a mention of snow refers to winter.

Choose two works of art that you enjoy. As you study each one, brainstorm (in the space below) about how you would describe it to a friend over the phone. Then, on the back of this sheet, write a haiku about what you see in the work of art. Be sure to follow the 5-7-5 syllable pattern and *kigo*.

Brainstorming

- Example:
- Bright yellow sun that spreads out everywhere
 - Shadows that are purple/blue (like water?)
 - Twisty branches on the trees
 - Purple mountains in the background

Title and Artist	Thumbnail Sketch	Haiku
<p><i>Olive Trees</i> Vincent van Gogh</p>		<p><i>Radiating sun</i> <i>Blessing the thirsty branches</i> <i>Shadows like rivers</i></p>

Brainstorming

Title and Artist

Thumbnail Sketch

Haiku

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Brainstorming

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Haiku

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