



**Activity:** Haikus Haikus

**Materials:** Paper and a pencil, Haiku rules (see below), suggested topics (see below)

**Grade Range:** 6-8

**Time:** 20-30 minutes

\*\* Consider using the hand raise/thumbs up feature of your virtual platform to assist with determining who will answer \*\*

**Synopsis:** This activity is a fun way to engage students in the writing of poetry. Haikus are easy, follow a set of rules, and introduce the students to a great way of expressing themselves.

**Instructions:**

1. Define 'Haiku' for the students – let them know that it is an old form of Japanese poetry that follows a defined set of rules (see below). Remind the students what a syllable is...a part of a word that contains a single vowel sound that is pronounced as a unit..."Book" – one syllable, "Water" – two syllables, "Basketball" – three syllables.
2. Read the following examples of Haikus to the students:

A fat bee stings me  
It hurts very badly but,  
I do not cry though

Ladybugs are red  
And have black spots on their wings  
Experts at flying

The bee flies quickly  
It turns around and stings me  
Then falls to the ground

3. Practice counting the syllables in the Haikus. Take a minute to check for understanding.
4. When students have a good grasp, let them know that you will put a list of suggested topics in the chat feature so that they might choose and begin.
5. Give students approximately 10 minutes to work for a bit – consider playing some 'thinking' music (something classical in nature!) Let them know that you will be seeking volunteers to share when they have completed. Mentors should work on theirs at this time, too.
6. After students have worked for about 10 minutes, ask students who would like to share to use their 'thumbs up' or 'hand raise' feature. It is important that mentors share their work too!
7. Please encourage clapping and praise for those whom have shared!



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## HAIKU FACTS

Haikus only have three lines, those lines do not rhyme, but you must have the right number of syllables in each line! Many are typically written about nature but can be about anything!

5 syllables in the first line  
7 syllables in the second line  
5 syllables in the last line

### Suggested Haiku Topics

Cookies  
Pizza  
Grasshoppers  
Fish  
Shoes  
Ice Cream  
Birds  
Basketball  
Music  
Trees  
Leaves  
Anything of your choosing!

**Pen Pal Prompts:** Do you like poetry? What types of poems do you enjoy? Do you think this is a good way to express yourself?