



Open-Sky
School

Category
ART THERAPY



Activity

My Haiku

MATERIALS

- Lined paper and pencils
- Clipboards
- Photocopies of the *My Haiku* worksheet (p.3)

DURATION

45 MINUTES

Activity Summary

This activity invites students to write a haiku. Writing a highly structured poem may be easier for some students, difficult for others. Be flexible and, above all, encourage creativity and fun.

Preparation

- If you wish, you can read *Earth Verse* by Sally Walker to your students before beginning this activity, in order to introduce the notion of the haiku. You can also consult Sally Walker's video for haiku writing tips : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZpHFbeHF6E>
- Find a quiet space in nature.



Steps

Introduce the poetic form of haiku to students.

Say:

The haiku is a type of poem that originates from Japan, and was developed during the time of the samurai and shoguns (war generals), around the 17th century, that is, in the 1600s.

This form of poetry seeks to express emotions and reflect on the passing moment.

Explain to students:

There are two general rules for writing haiku:

1. **Its form:** A haiku has 3 verses (What is a verse? It's a line in a poem) and each verse is written on one line. So a haiku is a poem of 3 lines in total.
 - If you want to try to write a real haiku, you can follow the following structure: The first line of your poem should be 3 words, the second line should have 5 words, and the last line should have 3 words.
 - If you find it too complicated to count words, just try to compose a haiku of 3 lines, without dwelling on the number of words per line.
2. **Its point:** A haiku is inspired by images of nature, i.e., an animal, an insect, a plant, a tree, a season, etc. The choices are endless!

A. Writing a haiku

Say:

Now it's your turn to write a haiku.

Choose one or a few natural elements that surround and inspire you to write your haiku.

Instructions

1. Haiku doesn't have to make sense, it can be funny or serious.
2. Use the worksheet to create your haiku.

RETURN TO GROUP

1. Once you finish writing, you can bring students together to read their haikus.
2. Ask students what they were thinking about when writing their haikus, and if they enjoyed this type of activity and why.

REINVESTMENT:

You can ask all students to write a haiku about the same element in nature (e.g., the wind, a fly, etc.) and see how the results differ from one person to another.

My haiku

Name:

Examples of 3 different haikus:

1. Delicate orange blossom
2. Petals dancing in the wind
3. Sweet and soft

1. Tiny house cricket
2. You are far from invisible
3. The cat eats

1. A blue dragonfly
2. Lands on my red cap
3. How it shimmers

It's your turn to write a haiku!

Which elements in nature did you choose? Look around!

Verse 1 (3 words):

Verse 2 (5 words):

Verse 3 (3 words):
