

HAIKU

All poems have shape or form, but there are some which are made up of a specific number of lines and syllables.

Haiku have a fixed form. Haiku must consist of three lines. Usually the first line has five syllables, the second seven and the third five again:

Tea-leaf in my cup:	[5 syllables]
did you read your own future,	[7 syllables]
growing in China?	[5 syllables]

Haiku is a traditional form of Japanese poetry. They are normally about some aspect of nature, and generally follow the principles of minimalism and immediacy. Minimalism means a simple and clear style, and immediacy means a direct, instant impact.

TASK 1 Copy the second paragraph and the example Haiku into your exercise book.

TASK 2 Answer the questions below using full sentences:

1. Where do Haiku poems originate from?
2. What are Haiku poems usually about?
3. a) What two principles does Haiku poetry follow?
b) What do these two principles mean?
4. Do you think the simpleness of a Haiku poem helps you understand it? Explain your answer.

TASK 3 Pick an aspect of nature (e.g. Water, Fire, Animals, Weather, Plants) and try to write your own Haiku.