

A Free Report on How to  
Write Haiku From Edward Weiss

# How to Write Haiku

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# How to Write a Haiku the Easy Way!

So, you want to write a haiku poem? Some think it's very easy to do. After all, it's only 3 short lines. But if you want to write a haiku, you need to know the basics. Let's get started!

First of all, forget about the 5-7-5 syllable rule. Modern haiku poets here in the west rarely use it. The Japanese used it because their language somehow fit it quite nicely. Fortunately for us, we don't have to think about how to fit what we want to say into a certain number of syllables.

What's important when writing a haiku is to understand the haiku spirit and basically, this really has to do with looking at things in nature with reverence. To understand that the beating wings of a humming bird is a small miracle itself is to begin to understand haiku for it seeks to capture the "small" things and make them big.

Now we can look at a certain technique I like to call macro-micro technique. Basically, this is when the first part of the haiku poem, the fragment, takes a macro view of the world. For instance, if we begin a haiku with something like this: "winter twilight," we've established the background or mood of the haiku... the macro view.

Now what we want is a present tense phrase that contributes some detail of something that is happening now. It doesn't have to be sophisticated and there's no need to search for something. The best haiku use simple direct language to describe things. For example, if we were to create a phrase like: "ice crystals hang off the pine," what we have just done is composed a micro view of something that is specific and can be described visually. Now the finished haiku would look something like this:

winter twilight --  
ice crystals  
hang off the pine

You'll notice that I broke this poem into 3 lines. The first line is the fragment or macro view. Lines 2 and 3 consist of the phrase. How you break the phrase up into lines 2 and 3 is purely an aesthetic choice best left to the poet.

But if you look at haiku composition as macro and micro, it will help you to write a haiku the easy way!

# Haiku Poems and How to Write Them

Everyone at one time or another has heard of or read haiku poems. This ancient Japanese art form has been around for a very long time. And with good reason! **It's a very beautiful and elegant poetic expression!**

With just a few words, the haiku poet can create a present moment - a snapshot of nature or an event taking place. No other poetry can do this with such economy, nor with such elegance!

To create haiku poems, you must understand what it is and how it is written today. No longer bound by the 5-7-5 syllable rule, modern haiku poetry uses something called phrase and fragments theory to create with. This is a lot simpler than it sounds. It just means that most haiku composed in the west uses a sentence fragment - usually something like "winter morning" to set the mood or ambiance.

This is followed by a more complete phrase. For example, with a fragment like "winter morning," we can use something specific... something present moment to complete this haiku:

winter morning --  
ice crystals  
hang off the pine

Notice how the phrase actually "completes" the fragment so to speak. They go together to create what some poets call an absolute metaphor. That's not important. What is important is learning how to create phrases for in this your success as a haiku poet rests. Creating phrases has everything to do with creating what haiku poet Ray Rasmussen has called "first order mind sense impressions."

That is, to create a present moment or an event about a present moment, you need to be able to write in the present moment. To practice this, it's a good idea to first read haiku you enjoy by others. Soak in their style and what they do. Then once you have an idea of the kind of things you want to write about, start writing your own haiku poems.

# Haiku Poems: A Description And a Weather Report

A while back I heard haiku poetry referred to as a description with a weather report. And while this may not always be the case, it's pretty much true!

Haiku poetry uses the concept of macro and micro very well here. For example, if I started a haiku out with the fragment "cool spring day," what we have here is a macro description of what kind of day it is - a weather report if you will.

Now, if I add a specific descriptive phrase to it like "a hummingbird darts out of sight," we have a micro view of something happening on this day. Combined, we have this haiku:

cool spring day --  
a hummingbird  
darts out of sight

Good haiku poetry need not be more than a description of the general ambiance of the day and something that is taking place during the day. As long as what is taking place is happening in "a present moment" the haiku will be OK. The problem some people have is that they remove themselves from the thing "as it's taking place" and describe something that already has or will happen. Not very haiku like at all.

Personally, I have a problem with haiku poets who try to be sophisticated thereby losing the haiku spirit. They try to write something that is "good" or they try and come up with something that will impress others. Don't do it! Keep it simple and your haiku will be little gems.

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This is Edward Weiss and I hope you enjoyed these essays on how to write haiku poetry.

Soon, I'm going to offer a complete online course where you can really dive in and become a full-fledged haiku poet or hajin!

**Stay tuned. It shouldn't be much longer!**

Regards,  
Edward Weiss  
Wisteria Press