



Inspiring Poetry

Haiku poetry is a traditional form of Japanese poetry that is recognized by its lyric form of 17 syllables in three lines. During this workshop, you and your students will practice writing Haiku poetry together, using a mystery object found in the container, and each participant will write a personal Haiku poem after observing in an area of the Garden.

Your materials box should contain: Directions for the workshop, paper and pencils for the students, large paper for the demonstration, marker and bag with mystery object.

Follow these steps as you work with your group:

- Take your group to the South Terrace (#15 on your map) in the Gardens where they can sit or stand in a circle.
- Explain what you are going to do during the workshop and that each of them will have an opportunity to use their senses and to reflect on what they see, hear, feel, smell and touch.
- Using the mystery bag provided in your workshop container, have each participant close his eyes, reach in the bag, and give one word to describe what the object feels like, what shape it is, what it reminds them of, what it smells like or any other descriptive word they may choose.
- Record their thoughts on the paper provided.
- Create a Haiku poem using the words and ideas. The first line will have five syllables, the second line will have seven syllables and the third line will have five syllables. Write the poem on the large piece of paper provided.

- Ask students to find a spot by themselves within your sight in the South Terrace area.
- Tell students to sit and use their senses to write a Haiku poem on their paper.
- Walk among students and help only when needed.
- After about 15 minutes, gather students back in circle.
- Share Haiku poems. Ask the students what they learned by using their senses and spending time observing in this beautiful, peaceful spot.
- Summarize the activity emphasizing the **PROCESS** of writing, rather than the product.



Inspiring Poetry Inventory List

This workshop kit includes:

- Paper and pencils
- Cardboard for hard surface for writing
- Paper for Haiku demonstration
- Marker
- Bag with mystery objects

Directions:

Follow the directions on the hand-out in the container. Remember that the emphasis is on the process of observing and listening in the Gardens. The actual poem is a bonus!

Send us the outstanding poems. We would love to keep them and use them as examples and to demonstrate how exciting this kind of writing about nature can be. Participants can illustrate their work or take pictures to accompany their create ideas.