

WHAT IS A HAIKU?

Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry that has been practiced for centuries. A classical haiku follows four principles:

1. It has three lines of 5–7–5 syllables.
2. It typically references the natural world.
3. It refers to a particular event, not a generalization.
4. It presents that event as it is happening **now**—not in the past.

Here are some principles to ponder:

- Life is the source of the haiku experience.
- Take note of the present moment.
- Contemplate natural objects closely—haiku is intuitive, not intellectual.
- Search for the unseen wonder in the familiar.

"A World of Dew"
by Kobayashi Isa
*A world of dew,
and within every dewdrop
a world of struggle.*

Write your own haiku & send it to:
sdlibraryonebook@sandiego.gov
for us to share on our website!