

Responding to Art Creatively

Poetry

Write a Haiku Poem about Art

Haiku

Haiku is a Japanese tradition of poetry that uses strong sensory and emotive images in an unrhymed, metered pattern:

- Line 1 – 5 syllables
- Line 2 – 7 syllables
- Line 3 – 5 syllables



Create a “Word Bank”

- To write a haiku, it helps to begin by creating a “word bank.” Write down words and phrases that answer the following questions and use your answers to make lines with the proper number of syllables. Use specific language. In other words, don’t just say a “tree.” Call it a maple, oak, birch, pine, flowering dogwood, or some other kind of tree.

Jot down answers to these questions:

- What is the focal point of the artwork? What draws your eye?
- Describe the colors you see in the artwork. What object is that color? (such as dazzling red sunset, faded orange hair, soft blue sweater, bright chartreuse caterpillar)
- Describe the textures of objects in the artwork. What object is that texture? (such as soft petals, wet leaves, scratchy branches, smooth water)

- Describe the perspective of the artwork (such as looking up to something towering above you, looking across a wide space, staring something in the eye, a bird's eye view, a close-up)
- What does the artwork remind you of? (Use a metaphor or simile)
- How does the artwork make you feel? (Avoid words like “good” or “nice.”)

Combine the words in your word bank in different combinations to give you lines of 5, 7, and 5 syllables. You will not use all the words in your word bank and you may want add other words.

Give your haiku a title. Do not use any of the words that you have already used in your poem.

Cinquain Poetry

- Cinquain poetry has five lines and a title. Poets often use alliteration when writing cinquain poems.
 - Line one – a noun (This could be an object in the artwork like “fish” or “ripple” or an idea or feeling the artwork represents like “peace.”)
 - Line Two – two adjectives that describe the noun in line one but do NOT end in – ing.

- Line Three – three adjectives that do end in –ing and tell what the noun in the first line is doing
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- Line Four is a simile (a phrase beginning with “Like a ...”) that describes the noun in line one.
- Line Five is another noun related to the noun in line one. If line one was the name of an object, line five might be the quality represented. If line one was an idea or feeling, line five might be something more concrete. Or line five might be a synonym or another way of thinking about the noun in line one.
- Your title should not contain any of the words in the poem and should introduce a new aspect of the theme.

Diamante Poetry

- Diamante poems are written to form the shape of a diamond.
- They create a strong contrast between two themes (warm or cool colors; wet or dry texture; straight or wavy lines; positive or negative space; geometric or organic shapes).
- They have seven lines and a title.

- Line One – one word (your first theme)
- Line Two – two words describing or relating to the first theme
- Line Three - three adjectives that end in –ing and describe the first theme.
- Line Four – Two words related to the first theme:
Two words related to the second theme.
- Line Five - three adjectives that end in –ing and describe the second theme
- Line Six - two words describing the first theme
- Line Seven – a noun (your second theme)

Writing a Diamante

- The easiest way to write a diamante is to begin with lines one and seven – your terms of contrast.
- Then you can “write to the middle,” completing lines 2 and 6, 3 and 5 and then line 4, where the division between themes takes place.
- Some students find it easier to write lines one and seven and then go in order – 2, 3, 4 (with the change over), 5 and 6.
- Be sure to model the process!

Example

Values

Tints

Pale, soft,

Whitening, fading, vanishing,

Dawn, light : shadow, dusk

Blackening, dimming, disappearing

Dark, strong,

Shades