

## Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

### Haiku for All Ages

Haiku: A Japanese verse form most often composed, in English Versions, of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables. A haiku often features an image, or a pair of images, meant to depict the essence of a specific moment in time.

[poetryfoundation.org](http://poetryfoundation.org)

### Important Japanese Haiku Poets

Matsuo Bashō (1644-1694)

Yosa Buson (1716-1784)

Kobayashi Issa (1763-1828)

Masaoka Shiki (1867-1902)

"Little snail,  
slowly, slowly,  
climbs Mount Fuji" - Issa



### Short Bibliography

*Write Your Own Haiku for Kids: See the World Through "Haiku Eyes"* by Patricia Donegan

*My First Book of Haiku Poems: A Picture, a Poem and a Dream: Classic Poems* by Japanese

Haiku Masters, translated by Esperanza Ramierez-Christensen

*Hi, Koo! A Year of Seasons* by Jon J. Muth

*Guess Who, Haiku* by Deanna Caswell and Bob Shea

For Adults:

*On Haiku* by Hiroaki Sato

## How to:

In *Write Your Own Haiku for Kids: See the World Through "Haiku Eyes,"* Patricia Donegan has a checklist that can help you compose your own Haiku!

**Form:** Haiku should have three lines with or without a seventeen syllable count. It should be one breath long.

**Image (a picture or sketch):** Your haiku should have a descriptive image - for example, not "a flower," but instead "a purple iris in the sun."

**Kigo (Season Word):** Your haiku should refer to nature and hint at the day's season or weather.

**Here and Now:** You should write from real experience or memory, not imagination; record the present moment.

**Feeling:** Your haiku should not explain or tell, but instead show the feeling through your image.

**Surprise:** Your haiku should have an "ah!" moment that wakes you up.

**Compassion:** Your haiku should express open heartedness toward nature.

If you want, use the index card post-it notes and compose your own Haiku poem. Display it at your library!