

## Exploring Poetry through Haiku

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### Describing the world around us

Read the poem below. What do you think it is? What else do you notice about it?

<p><b>The original Japanese</b> (by Matsuo Basho)</p> <p><i>Furu ike ya kawazu tobikomu mizu no oto</i></p>	<p><b>English</b> (translated by William J. Higginson)</p> <p>old pond... a frog leaps in water's sound</p>
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This is one of the best known poems in the Japanese language. It's a haiku and it was written by Matsuo Basho, probably the most famous writer of haiku ever. **What do you think the 'rules' for a haiku are?**

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### A selection of haiku to read aloud (each one twice!)

<p>1. old pond... a frog leaps in water's sound</p> <p>Matsuo Basho</p>	<p>2. a thief vanishes over the rooftops night chill!</p> <p>Yosa Buson</p>	<p>3. a yellow paper zig-zags to the floor bare trees</p> <p>William J Higginson</p>
<p>4. autumn clear-- the smoke of something goes into the sky</p> <p>Masaoka Shiki</p>	<p>5. the coolness ... the half-moon shifts puddles</p> <p>Koyabayashi Issa</p>	<p>6. in the wet sand the toddlers bake little tarts till the sea eats them</p> <p>Gary Warner</p>
<p>7. home from hospital – spinning the bicycle wheel just for its sound</p> <p>Elizabeth St. Jacques</p>	<p>8. pedestrian bridge— a man repairing shoes under the stairs</p> <p>gop (Patrick Gallagher)</p>	<p>9. late for tea my daughter stares down a rabbit-hole</p> <p>Paul T Conneally</p>

## Exercises:

- Draw a star in the corner of the box that contains a haiku that you like. Think about why you like it and be ready to read it out (twice!) and say why you like it, what it made you think of etc.
- Many haiku contain two parts - a "fragment" and a "phrase". The fragment makes one line (first or third) and the phrase is split over two lines. Underline the fragment in each haiku.
- Look at the images below and imagine you are there. What can you see, smell, feel, taste, hear? Write down your ideas in the box below. They can be words or sentences.

