

The Form

- Since it is so short, the haiku is often described as being like a stone dropped in a pool. The initial impact of the poem on the reader is like the impact of the stone on the water. The ripples the poem creates resonate in the mind for some time afterwards. So, after its first impression, a haiku should leave you thinking about its images and insights into life. Good haiku are hard to write but it can be very rewarding to sum up a truth in so few words. Although short, they often take longer to perfect than other, seemingly more complicated, poems.

1. Owl haunts like a wraith 5
While the hedgerow holds its breath. 7
Death is on the wing. 5

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2. The queen of the hive
Cannot fly free; she mothers
A whole dynasty.

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from "The Poet's Craft: A Handbook of Rhyme, Metre and Verse" by
Sandy Brown-John (Hodder + Stoughton, 2002)