

Guide to Writing Haiku and Senryu by Rowan Beckett Minor

Definitions, Tools, and Resources

1. Why We Don't Write English Haiku in 5/7/5
 - a. While Japanese haiku are typically written in 17 mora, or sound units, they are not equivalent to English syllables. In fact, when you translate a 5/7/5 haiku from Japanese to English, the poem actually becomes much shorter, around 11-14 syllables on average. Thus, the syllable count in English is typically avoided in modern haiku. However, some contemporary haiku poets still try to aim for that 11-14 syllable range.
 - i. <https://www.nahaiwrimo.com/why-no-5-7-5>
 - ii. <https://thehaikufoundation.org/some-thoughts-on-line-and-syllable-count-in-english-language-haiku/>
2. Haiku Definition & Tools
 - a. A short, breath-length poem that captures a present moment, contains concrete, sensory-driven imagery (often including two parts juxtaposed with kigo), and shifts the reader's perspective.
 - b. Haiku
 - i. <https://thehaikufoundation.org/new-to-haiku-what-is-haiku-2/>
 - ii. <https://www.graceguts.com/essays/becoming-a-haiku-poet>
 - iii. <https://thehaikufoundation.org/new-to-haiku-for-beginners/>
 - iv. <https://www.graceguts.com/essays/ten-ways-to-improve-your-poetry-with-haiku>
 - v. <https://litkicks.com/EssentialElementsofHaiku/>
 - c. Concrete Imagery
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwLcPTJbtrk&t=5s>
 - d. Kigo
 - i. <https://thehaikufoundation.org/new-to-haiku-what-is-a-kigo/>
 - ii. <https://yths.org/kigo/>
 - iii. <https://yths.org/season-word-list/>
 - e. Kire/Kireji
 - i. <https://thehaikufoundation.org/new-to-haiku-kire-and-punctuation/>
 - ii. <https://contemporaryhaibunonline.com/cho-issue-16-1/article-the-heart-of-a-haiku-kire/>
 - iii. <https://www.trivenihaikai.in/post/learning-the-heart-of-a-haiku-the-cut-marker-the-kireji-part-four>
 - iv. <https://thehaikuexperiment.wordpress.com/2014/07/24/what-the-heck-are-kireji-cutting-words/>
 - f. Juxtaposition

- i. <https://thehaikufoundation.org/omeka/files/original/846d25ebac13bdfc15a337c905c9376e.pdf>
 - ii. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLACN262H3A>
 - g. Toriawase
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zv8onexQ9SI>
 - h. Brevity
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnnVrGJCHaw>
- 3. Senryu Definition
 - a. A haiku-like poem that captures a single moment to highlight human faults and failures by using humor, puns, wordplay, satire, and irony. Unlike haiku, senryu may contain kigo and kire, but they are not essential tools. Post WWII, senryu have evolved to encompass more serious and heavy themes, such as war, abuse, and suicide.
 - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YK4EsYEHFF0&t=1109s>
 - ii. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuHjZI0m2uA&t=351s>
- 4. Haibun Definition
 - a. A hybrid poem which contains three stand-alone, but juxtaposing parts (title, prose, and haiku) that are in relationship to one another thematically and creates insight for the reader, but do not repeat or overlap in any direct way.
 - i. <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/frogpond/backissues/34-3-Frogpond-2011.pdf> (pg. 83 - "The Lost Weekend")
 - ii. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYg8fpxV9q4>
- 5. All Form Definitions
 - a. <https://www.graceguts.com/essays/notes-on-japanese-forms>

Reading Lists

1. Print Resources

- a. The Haiku Handbook by William J. Higginson
- b. The Haiku Seasons: Poetry of the Natural World by William J. Higginson
- c. Haiku World: An International Poetry Almanac by William J. Higginson
- d. The Japanese Haiku: Its Essential Nature, History, and Possibilities in English, with Selected Examples by Kenneth Yasuda
- e. Bashô and His Interpreters: Selected Hokku with Commentary by Mokoto Ueda
- f. Traces of Dreams: Landscape, Cultural Memory, and the Poetry of Bashô by Haruo Shirane
- g. The Art of Reading & Writing Haiku : A Reader Response Approach by Randy Brooks
- h. The Disjunctive Dragonfly: A New Approach to English-language Haiku by Richard Gilbert
- i. An Introduction to Haiku by Harold G. Henderson
- j. Light Verse from the Floating World compiled by Mokoto Ueda
- k. Haiku Moment: An Anthology of Contemporary North American Haiku edited by Bruce Ross
- l. The Haiku Anthology edited by Cor Van den Heuvel
- m. Haibun: A Writer's Guide by Roberta Beary, Lew Watts, and Rich Youmans
- n. Haiku: Learn to Express Yourself by Patricia Donegan
- o. Haiku in English: The First Hundred Years edited by Jim Kacian

2. Online Journals, Samples, & Contests

- a. The Heron's Nest: <https://theheronsnest.com/archives.html>
- b. Frogpond: <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/frogpond/backissues/backissues.html>
- c. Modern Haiku: <https://www.modernhaiku.org/previousissue.html>
- d. English Speaking Union of Japan - Haiku: https://www.esuj.gr.jp/event/5_index_detail.php
- e. tsuri-dôrô: <https://tsuridoro.org/issues>
- f. Autumn Moon Haiku Journal: <https://www.autumnmoonhaiku.com/>
- g. Poetry Pea: <https://www.youtube.com/@PoetryPea>
- h. Wales Haiku: <https://www.waleshaikujournal.com/haiku>
- i. #FemkuMag: <https://femkumag.wixsite.com/home/issues>
- j. Prune Juice: <https://prunejuicesenryu.com/browse-by-category/>
- k. Contemporary Haibun Online: <https://contemporaryhaibunonline.com/all-issues/>
- l. Drifting Sands Haibun: <https://drifting-sands-haibun.org/back-issues/>
- m. HSA Henderson Haiku Award: <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/haikuawards/henderson.htm>
- n. HSA Brady Senryu Award: <https://www.hsa-haiku.org/senryuawards/senryu.htm>