



# WHAT IS HAIKU?

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Haiku is the shortest form of poetry in the world!

A haiku is a traditional Japanese poem  
made up of three short lines  
that capture a moment, image or feeling.

The traditional form has 17 syllables:

Line 1 has **5 syllables**.

Line 2 has **7 syllables**.

Line 3 has **5 syllables**.

A length of 17 syllables is not an absolute rule for haiku.  
Some haiku are even shorter and some have a few extra  
syllables. All haiku are brief and expressive.

Haiku are described as:

- a sensory passing experience,
- reflecting a moment concisely,
- distilling a human experience into a very short poem, or
- a moment to reflect, a sense of wonder.