 Robyn Hood Black

**HAIKU HOW-TO WORKSHOP – General ideas**

[robynhoodblack.com](http://www.robynhoodblack.com) [robyn@robynhoodblack.com](mailto:robyn@robynhoodblack.com)

**Haiku Tips (for students grades 3 & up)**

**Read** some good haiku. Lots of good haiku.

**Observe** something in nature. If you can’t go outside, study a natural object or look at a poster, etc.

**Jot down** your observations.

**Ponder:** Are there two images (any sense is fair game – sight, sound, touch, smell, taste) you can use in a haiku? Will the reader understand how the two ideas relate to each other?

**Draft** a short poem – use one line for one image and two lines for the other. The order does not matter. Play around and see what you like. Do not worry about syllable count – keep the lines short. Every word MUST pull its weight. No empty filler! :0)

**Draft another version** or two (or six!) to consider.

**Let your poetry sit** –at least overnight – to “cure”!

**Choose** your favorite version and **revise** your poem if needed.

**Share** with a trusted partner and get **feedback**; offer feedback on your partner’s poem.

**Revise** **again**. Illustrate if you like, making it a ***haiga.***

**Publish** your poem – display on a wall, or share on a class blog, **OR**

**work together** to organize the haiku into a booklet – make copies for each poet to keep and enjoy.

Students could work together in groups of five to publish their poems in a small book, with each person taking a publishing job:

*editor* (overseeing the order of the poems), *art director/designer* (deciding where to place poems on the page and/or how to use the illustrations), *copy editor* (proofreading),

*cover artist* (illustrating a front cover), and *production manager* (working with the teacher to copy and assemble each book).

**Present** your poem – each student may read his or her work to the class.

Have a Poetry Party!