* Robyn Hood Black*

**HAIKU HOW-TO WORKSHOP**

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**Haiku How-To (for Teachers of grades K-2 – group activity)**

**Read** some good, simple haiku to the class.

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

**Ask students about their observations** and **write** some of these down for all to see.

**Ponder:** Are there two images (any sense is fair game – sight, sound, touch, smell, taste) the class can use in a haiku poem? Write down a few good student ideas to discuss.

**Draft** a fewpossible lines/phrases from these ideas. Let students pick their favorites. (Remember, no need to count syllables! Just keep lines short and simple.)

**Draft** a short poem as a group– use one line for one image and two lines for the other. The order does not matter. Play around and see what everyone likes. Try a different order for the images if feasible.

Let students **choose** their favorites. Suggest slight **revisions** if needed.

Each student might make an **illustration** for the poem(s), making it a ***haiga.***

**Publish** the poem and illustrations– display on a wall, or share on a class blog.

Depending on grade level and proficiency, students might next try writing an **individual poem** with assistance if needed. These could be collected and presented as part of a Poetry Party!