

Haiku

I hate you haiku
You are much too hard to do
Free verse is the best

-Wagner, age 17

Haiku, unlike my feelings about them as a kid, are actually pretty neat. They are tiny, tiny poems about tiny, tiny details, most often about nature but not always. They are from Japan originally, but many people, including Jack Kerouac, have played with the form.

A basic haiku is in 5-7-5 syllables:

On	Mon	day	morn	ing		
I	plead	with	the	al	arm	clock
Sev	en	more	min	utes		

Syllables are just how many beats a word has, or how many times your jaw drops, or how many claps equals the word. For example, the word "responsible" has 4 syllables: re-spon-si-ble. "Cat" has 1. "Fantastic" has 3: fan-tas-tic.

Write 2 haiku that follow the 5-7-5 pattern:

OK, now it's time to play. A haiku, again, is really more than just 5-7-5. It's a tiny poem about a tiny detail. Notice a tiny detail about your life, and write three short lines about it. Now write 3 more haiku, that don't necessarily have to follow 5-7-5 (but can if you want them to).