

Five Ideas to Help Get You Started Writing Contemporary Haiku

The Golden Haiku contest follows the Haiku Society of America's guidelines for modern haiku. We do not require the traditional 5-7-5 structure because English and Japanese are vastly different languages. In doing so, we hope the haiku we receive reflect the diversity of the people writing them.

- 1. A haiku is a short poem.** There are many variations (in Japanese, too!) when it comes to structure, so keep an open mind.
- 2. Avoid unneeded words.** Haiku strip superfluous words and syllables for the goal of simplicity.
- 3. Bring your reader into your experience.** It's okay to play with your haiku and adapt it to best capture the moment.
- 4. Read a lot of haiku.** It will help you figure out what you like and what works for you.
- 5. Write a lot of haiku.** Writing haiku is as much about the joy of writing and sharing as it is about the product.

Find more tips from Abigail Friedman, author of *The Haiku Apprentice: Memoirs of Writing Poetry in Japan*, and a Golden Haiku judge, at goldentriangledc.com/haiku