

**Japan Lesson Plan**  
**Haiku Poetry**  
**Shanaka Horner**  
**Marietta Middle School**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts**

Title: Japanese Haiku

Materials: Examples of Haiku from literature books, handouts, and the Internet

Objectives: 1. Students will be able to identify the elements of haiku: 5, 7, 5 syllables, season word, cutting word.  
2. Students will be able to write their own haiku and share them with the class.  
3. Students will provide a picture or illustration to go along with one of their poems.

Timeline: This is a two-day lesson for 45 minute class periods.

Day One: 1. Teacher will start with examples of haiku for the students on a handout (this was the handout from EDUC 671).  
2. Read poems aloud and ask students to identify elements that these poems share.  
3. After discussion, tell students elements of haiku: 5, 7, 5 syllables with 3 lines, must be about nature, and include a cutting word. Haiku also go from broad vastness down to detail.  
4. Students can be shown a picture on the overhead and asked to write a haiku. This is where it can be explained that a haiku is simply a snapshot of a moment in time.  
5. Students can share their haiku with each other and see how each of them interpret the same "snapshot" or picture in different ways.  
6. Students will then begin assignment of writing three more haiku poems, one of which there must be a picture or illustration in addition to the haiku. Students will be given a second class day to complete assignment.

Day Two: 1. Students will work on and finish haiku poetry.  
2. Students will read their haiku aloud.

Resources: Handout from EDUC 671

## Japanese Haiku Poetry

A mountain village  
Deep in snow...under the drifts  
A sound of water.

The aged dog  
Seems impressed with the song  
Of the earthworms.

Full moon  
My ramshackle hut  
Is what it is.

What voice,  
What song, spider,  
In the Autumn wind?

A crow  
Has settled on a bare branch—  
Autumn evening.

Misty rain,  
Can't see Fuji  
—Interesting!

The old pond—  
A frog jumps in,  
Sound of water.

Moonlight slanting  
Through the bamboo grove;  
A cuckoo crying.

Not this human sadness,  
Cuckoo,  
But your solitary cry.

This autumn—  
Why am I growing old?  
Bird disappearing among clouds.

Cuckoo's cry—  
Moonlight seeps  
Through the thicket of bamboo.

Clapping my hands—

With the echoes the summer moon  
Begins to dawn.

White blossoms of the pear  
And a woman in moonlight  
Reading a letter.

Tea flowers—  
Are they white?  
Yellow?

Dawn—  
Fish the cormorants haven't caught  
Swimming in the shallows.

White dew—  
One drop  
On each thorn.

The mountain cuckoo—  
A fine voice,  
And proud of it!

Cuckoo singing:  
I have nothing special to do,  
Neither does the burweed.

A great city stood here—  
Now the roads lead to the past,  
There are flowers blooming.

