

**Lesson Plan: Reading and Writing Haiku**  
**Provided by the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association (SPLKA)**

**Content Area:**

Language Arts

**Lesson Title:**

Haiku for You: Let's Write a Poem about the Lighthouse

**Objective(s):**

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- Reflect on their experiences at the lighthouse.
- Describe the structure and features of the lighthouse, its purpose, and its history.
- Describe the grounds around the lighthouse, including the lake, trees, birds, etc.
- Develop a list of words or phrases to describe the lighthouse and its surroundings.
- Distill the list of words and phrases into syllables.
- Improve pronunciation of syllables through the structure of a haiku.
- Write a haiku about the lighthouse and its surroundings.
- Read the haiku to the class.
- Provide feedback on each other's haiku, including checking that the syllable structure is correct (students can count syllables on their fingers or clap).
- Revise the haiku based on feedback.

NOTE: Students could draw pictures of the lighthouse to include with their haiku. The haiku then becomes a *haiga*, another traditional Japanese form of poetry.

**MI Content Standards:**

Reading Standards for Literature – for Grade 4 students (see 4, 5, and 10)

Writing Standards – for Grade 4 students (see 3, 4, 5 and 10)

Speaking and Listening Standards – for Grade 4 students (see 4)

Language Standards – for Grade 4 students (see 3, 5, and 6)

Standard 10: Range, Quality, and Complexity of Student Reading K-5

Range of Text Types for K-5: Poetry

**Materials:**

- 1) Pieces of paper or a notebook or journal.
- 2) Pencil.
- 3) Sheet of haiku examples.

## Resources:

Cobb, David, ed. *Haiku: The Poetry of Nature*. New York, NY: Universe Publishing, 2002 [2007].

Haiku Society of America, <http://has-haiku.org>, accessed 7/9/21.

House, Katherine L. *Lighthouses for Kids: History, Science, and Lore with 21 Activities*. Chicago, IL: Chicago Review Press, 2008. See page 92.

Macken, JoAnn Early. *Read, Recite, and Write Haiku*. New York, NY: Crabtree Publishing, 2015. (This is an excellent book for children.)

Patt, Judith, Warkentyne, Michiko, and Till, Barry. *Haiku: Japanese Art and Poetry*. Portland, OR: Pomegranate Communications, Inc., 2010.

Ross, Bruce. *How to Haiku: A Writer's Guide to Haiku and Related Forms*. Boston, MA: Tuttle Publishing, 2002.

Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association (SPLKA), <http://splka.org>, accessed 7/11/21.

## Activities:

- Develop a list of words or phrases to describe the lighthouse and its surroundings.
- Distill the list of words and phrases into syllables.
- Write a haiku about the lighthouse and its surroundings. Add a drawing (optional).
- Read the haiku to the class.
- Provide feedback on each other's haiku, including checking that the syllable structure is correct (students can count syllables on their fingers or clap).
- Revise the haiku based on feedback.

## Assessment:

- Taking quality notes and/or contributing to suggestions for vocabulary to use for the lighthouse and surroundings at the lighthouse
- Vocabulary chosen by the student for the haiku.
- Counting and correctly pronouncing the syllables of words and phrases chosen for the haiku.
- Using the 5-7-5 syllable form of lines in the haiku.
- Creating a unitary whole in the three lines to describe the lighthouse and surroundings.
- Reading the haiku to classmates.
- Revising the haiku based on feedback.
- Providing helpful feedback to other students.
- Drawing the lighthouse and its surroundings to accompany the haiku (optional).

**Notes:**

Time at the lighthouse may be short. If so, students could wait to write their haiku until later (home or back at the classroom) and instead either take quick notes or think of words as a group that describe the lighthouse.

**Lesson Content and Examples****What is Haiku? (Hi Coo)**

Haiku is a short poem. This form of poetry is from Japan. Haiku is hundreds of years old. Haiku poems show respect for nature – birds, flowers, trees, snow, mountains - and the seasons - winter, spring, fall, summer. But you can write haiku about anything. Haiku is still very popular and there are organizations and publications for people who enjoy reading and writing haiku.

**Why Read and Write Haiku?**

Writing haiku is fun. Reading haiku helps you learn new words. Writing haiku helps you learn syllables and the correct way to pronounce long words. Writing haiku is peaceful. Reading haiku helps you remember beautiful things.

Anyone can write haiku!

**How Do You Write Haiku?**

Haiku is simple to write. You only need three lines. The first line has 5 syllables. The second line has 7 syllables. The third line has 5 syllables. You don't need a title for your haiku. Look around you for ideas.

If you draw a picture for your haiku, it becomes a *haiga*, another traditional Japanese form of poetry.

**The Most Famous Haiku**

The most famous haiku was written by Basho in 1686.

An old silent pond...  
A frog jumps into the pond,  
Splash! Silence again.

**Some Examples** (by Sara Anne Hook, SPLKA)

Hint: Be sure to check the number of syllables.

**Brave Lighthouse**

When I am afraid,  
I think of the brave lighthouse  
standing tall in storms.



**Look for the Light**

Top of the tower  
the keeper lights a bright lamp.  
Ships find safe harbor.

**Summer Fun**

People walk the pier  
Tall tower, cool breeze, sunshine.  
Best summer ever!

**The Lake's Secret**

With the water low  
parts of an old ship appear  
Rising from the sand.