

Poetic Forms: Haiku, Free Verse & Sonnet Structure

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will write in three distinct poetic forms and explain how structure affects meaning.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- paper
- ruler
- pencil
- index cards

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Using your ruler, draw a 3-line grid on an index card. Count syllables on your fingers to write a haiku (5-7-5 syllables) about a season or nature scene.
2. On a second page, write a free verse poem (at least 10 lines, no rhyme or syllable rules) about a personal memory.
3. Read the provided 4-line sonnet excerpt and mark the rhyme scheme pattern (ABAB) with letters next to each line.
4. Write your own 4-line stanza following an ABAB rhyme scheme on any topic of your choice.
5. Create a small comparison chart listing the rule (syllables, rhyme, length) for each of the three forms you just used.

QUESTIONS

1. **How many syllables does each line of a haiku have, and does your haiku follow the pattern? Show your syllable count.**

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2. **What makes free verse different from haiku and sonnet forms?**

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3. **What is the rhyme scheme you identified in the sonnet excerpt, and does your own stanza match it?**
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4. Which of the three forms was hardest to write and why?
