

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## How to Build a Haiku

Haiku is an ancient form of poetry first written in Japan in the 16th century. A haiku is a short, simple poem that doesn't rhyme. The point of a haiku is to capture a moment, feeling, or single idea. In this activity, you will read examples of these ancient poems and write your own haiku.

**Directions:** Read the haiku below and follow the directions to write your own.

1. There are different kinds of haiku. The most common kind is three lines long. The entire poem contains exactly 17 syllables. The first line has five syllables. The second line has seven syllables. And the third line has five syllables. Read these two examples from ancient Japanese haiku masters:

Yellow autumn moon  
unimpressed the scarecrow stands  
simply looking bored

—Issa

High on the mountain  
Faintly we heard far below  
A skylark singing

—Matsuo Basho

2. Now, follow the model below to write your own haiku.

Line one: five syllables:                    **Magenta lipstick**  
Line two: seven syllables:   **Pressed onto my smiling cheek**  
Line three: five syllables:                **My grandmother's kiss**

Line one (5 syllables) \_\_\_\_\_

Line two (7 syllables) \_\_\_\_\_

Line three (5 syllables) \_\_\_\_\_