

Genre Assignment

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Haikus is one form of genre in our society. Haiku is a poetic form that consists of seventeen syllables, arranged in three lines five seven five. Basho, Buson, and Issa were the first three masters of the haiku genre and it was first emerged in the Japanese literature during the 17th century. Haikus were first known as the Hokku then during the 19th century it was changed to Haiku. Haikus are important because they tend to tell a very vivid message in those seventeen syllables. In Japan these poems are valued for their simplicity, openness, and depth. The most significant figure that has produced in this genre is Basho, he made haikus a serious art and encouraged people to look into it more by his incredible poems that he wrote from his anthologies and travel diaries. According to the article, "Seasonal: English language Haiku in search of its vertical" it explains to us what the seasons in the haiku's actually stand for and what they mean. A season feeling means **kidai** and a seasonal word means **kigo**. It says, "each season word can be said to have its own immediately associated

cultural images... or a plum orchard". This means that every seasonal haiku that is written follows with what season they are specifically talking about and what that season ties around such as a holiday or important time of year.

In my paper I mainly focused on seasonal haikus that were written in the 17th century by many famous poets as mentioned before. The main message in all of the samples I saw was relating to a person in a specific season. They don't have the same message but it depends on what season they are talking about. For instance when they talk about the winter it talks about the pain in the cheeks by the cold, then in the summer haiku it talks about the river, the pleasant weather and holding sandals. All of these haikus aren't specifically directed to a certain audience but they just focus on the season and characteristics that tie around it. Like for the summer the sizzling hot weather, the winter's freezing temperature, and for the fall it's leaves. Most of these samples follow the format of the five seven five syllables in the three lines, but some of them were longer and had more syllables to them.

One of the haikus that I really liked and enjoyed reading out of all of the samples was by Basho,
the cold wintry wind,

the throbbing pains of swelling cheeks,
people's faces

In this haiku, Basho is talking about the winter and how there's the cold wind with people's freezing cheeks. But if you read it closely he's talking about the pain in the cheeks, makes me think why would he mention that. He specifically talks about the winter, cause his focal point is on seasons. Basho writes these haikus in order to portray his sensation of reality to others. This haiku is important to me and society because it just gives this message about the winter in depth, it's what basho sees and is showing us by his writing. What I personally find very significant is the throbbing pains of the swelling cheek, it's like there is a deeper meaning to the haiku. Basho is trying to express something, something that would have happen to him or he saw. Another haiku that I found even more interesting was by Issa, another famous poet in Japan that has been shown a lot of love because of his poems.

a sudden shower falls,
and naked I am riding,
on a naked horse

This haiku of his has a lot of meaning. Issa himself grew up in the poor environment, harassment, and unhappiness. In the haiku he mentions himself naked riding on a horse, here he talks about the poverty he was brought up in. He also says the sudden shower falls this means he talks about the fall. Issa is mainly speaking to the world to share what he has been through in life. This haiku is important because he talks about his own life, what he has been through and the way he shares it with everyone through his writing. The most significant part that I found is the part where he says naked I am riding, on a naked horse. It's a deep meaning where he's illustrating his personal problems that he encountered during his life. It gives the reader a better understanding to understand what he went through.

The haiku that I wrote ties around the summertime where I'm enjoying the heat as the days go by.

A burning hot day,
I'm trying to have some fun,
Before it's too late.

Heavy summer heat,
No breeze through open windows,
The night train's whistle.

Ice cream at the beach,
Laying under the hammock,
The temperature is ninety-five.

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