

# HAIKUS UNDER THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS



A *haiku* is a Japanese form of poetry that follows strict rules about the number of syllables in each line. The poems originated in the 1600s to contrast the elaborate poetry styles that were popular at the time.

## HOW TO WRITE A HAIKU:

**Step 1:** Find a peaceful place to sit and write, whether that's beneath the cherry blossom trees at OU or at home. If you visit the blossoms on the bike path, make sure to wear a mask and find a spot 6 feet away from other people!

**Step 2:** Start writing! One of the most well-known haiku forms has 17 syllables divided into three lines. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables and the third line has 5 syllables again. Not all haikus have this format - check out some of the haikus to the left and count how many syllables there are! Take in the beautiful blooms of spring and share your (family friendly!) poetry with us on Twitter @ohio\_museum!

## FAMOUS HAIKUS

An old silent pond...  
A frog jumps into the pond,  
splash! Silence again.  
- Matsuo Bashō

Consider me  
As one who loved poetry  
And persimmons.  
- Masaoaka Shiki

Sparrow's child  
out of the way, out of the way!  
the stallion's coming through  
- Kobayashi Issa



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