

SALMON HAIKU POETRY

Students compose a haiku poem about salmon.

STANDARD
Writing

THEME
Salmon

GRADES
2 - 5

TIME
40 minutes

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Refresh or gain an understanding of what a haiku poem is.
- Translate something known, imagined, or felt into haiku form.
- Use a haiku in a visually creative way.

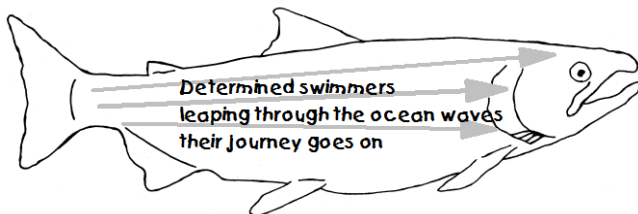
PREPARATION

1. Choose art from the salmon gallery to use as the base for student haikus.
2. Make enough copies for your class. (Hint: Make a salmon profile at least 7" long.)
3. Provide watercolors and/or colored pens or pencils for coloring and fine-point dark markers for writing. (Hint: Let watercolors dry while composing haikus.)

LESSON

1. Introduce haiku poetry to the class by showing them examples. Emphasize the syllable count:
first line: 5 second line: 7 third line: 5
2. Write this syllable count on the board.
3. Give each student a salmon profile or alevin art and supplies to color it. (Set a time limit!) Ask them to think about what they might want to say in their haiku as they color. When all are finished, direct them to set their papers aside.
4. Guide students in writing a haiku about a salmon fact, a behavior they have observed in their tank, what they see in their mind's eye when they picture salmon in the wild, or whatever strikes you to suggest. Encourage them to write multiple drafts on scratch paper until they are satisfied.
5. Direct them to use a marker to write their haikus over their coloring and add their name.
6. As time permits, ask each student to read his or her haiku to the class.
7. Post in the classroom or hallway for all to see and enjoy.

EXAMPLES



NOTE

Students who use the profile might cut it out so that their haiku fish can "swim" along the wall.