Writing HAIKU POEMS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Overview

Ocean predator,

Lurking deep beneath the waves,

Majestic, graceful.
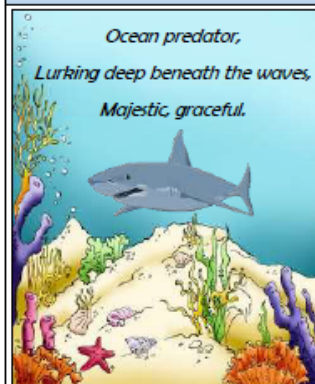
Haiku Poems

-Haiku poems are a type of visual, structured poetry. They originated in Japan.

-Haiku poems are very short: they are only 3 lines long!

-Haikus have a strict syllable count. There are 17 syllables in total: 5 in the 1st line, 7 in the 2nd line and 5 in the 3rd line.

-Haiku poems are normally extremely descriptive poems about the natural world - animals, plant life, or other natural features are common subjects.

-Due to the short length, every word in a Haiku is extremely important – poets have to choose their vocabulary carefully to create a vivid image of their chosen topic.

Content – What am I writing about?

-Haiku poems are often about nature (e.g. plants, animals, seasons, scenery, etc.) you should always aim to appeal to the reader's five senses.
-Think: what does the thing you are writing about look, smell, sound, feel and taste (if you can eat it) like?

Some other important questions to consider
-Where does it live? How would you describe its habitat?
-Where in the world can you find it?
-How does it make you feel? How do you imagine it feels?
-What objects does it use? What things does it eat?
-What do other people think of it?
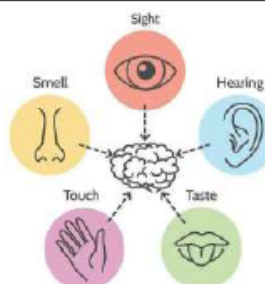
-Most Haiku poems share an important message in the final line. They are designed to make the reader think about the idea or thing in a certain way.
-For example, the Haiku poem here considers the impact that we humans are having on our beautiful planet. Think carefully about the message that you want to give about your subject.

Blue and green plant,

Mother of all living beauty,

Do we deserve you!

Language – What words and techniques should I use?

You should consider your word choices, in order to create a vivid picture in the mind of the reader. This will help them to imagine what you are writing your poem about. You can do this by carefully using:
Nouns (things): e.g. rather than 'tree', be more exact, e.g. 'willow' or 'redwood.'
Adjectives (describing words): e.g. rather than the 'big' ocean, the 'vast' or 'sprawling' ocean/
Verbs (actions): e.g. rather than 'runs', you could use 'sprints' or 'staggers.'
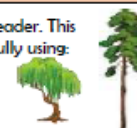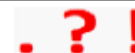
Poems do not have to rhyme – don't force it!

Rhyme can be used to give your poems a rhythm and make them sound good.

-Rhyming words sound the same at the end.

-For example, snow and go, door and more, grass and pass, and belly and jelly.

Onomatopoeia when saying a word aloud sounds like the thing it describes, e.g. bang, crash etc.

Alliteration is when you use the same sound at the beginning of words, e.g. 'graceful, gliding, glorious.'

Punctuation Checklist

. ? !

-End sentences with a:

Full stop (for most sentences), exclamation mark (for funny, scary or exciting points) or question mark (for questions).

Sea Creature Haiku Poems – Word Mat

fish   fin   scales   seaweed   ocean   salty   waves   crustacean

fierce   shiny   sharp   snappy   spiky   smooth   graceful

white   blue   brown   grey   green   scarlet   turquoise   pink

swimming   gliding   creeping   crawling   scuttling   twisting

trembling   screaming   stalking   peering   breathing

In your writing, remember to also use the spelling, grammar and handwriting rules that you have learnt.

Structure– How do I set my poem out?

Syllables are the beats in words, e.g. two syllables in 'window' and one syllable in 'door.'

Haiku poems are always three lines long and contain 17 syllables. They follow this structure:

5 syllables in line 1
Introduce your topic
7 syllables in line 2
Further describe the topic (verbs, adjectives)
5 syllables in line 3
Leave the reader with a lasting message about the topic.

Little red lady,

Tiny, graceful leaf dweller,

Seven-spotted charm.

Remember that every word counts. Because of the short form of the Haiku, avoid using filler words like 'the', 'and', 'it' etc. wherever possible. Try to make sure that every word is a really specific noun, verb, adjective or adverb, so that your topic is as well described as possible!

Important Vocabulary

Haiku   Poetry   Synonym/Antonym   Visual Poetry   Structured   Syllables   Message   Onomatopoeia   Alliteration   Vocabulary