



Community Haiku Project

Let's write Haiku to celebrate the smallest moments in our lives: micro-moments.

In a micro-moment: a yellow leaf falls from a tree and scuffs the sidewalk by our feet; the rising sun lights up a spiderweb in the tall, wet grass; the taste of apple cider reminds us of a loved one. In a micro-moment, we become connected to the world around us and our five senses: sight, taste, touch, smell, sound. We notice how small things create their own sense of emotion, or move us in some way, or surprise us. A micro-moment lasts for the time it takes for us to breathe in—and out.

Traditional Haiku, a Japanese form, have these features in common:

- Three lines with the following line lengths: 5 syllables, 7 syllables, 5 syllables
- Reference to a season
- Focus on nature
- Vivid images: details that evoke one or more of the five senses: sight, taste, touch, smell, sound
- Juxtaposition: contrasting images or details
- Conveys emotion, insight, or surprise—even an epiphany
- No title is necessary

Modern Haiku have these additional features:

- Flexible syllable count
- Focus on nature OR human-made spaces
- Sometimes, a linked series of Haiku create a longer poem

Don't worry about perfection. What's important is what's happening in your thoughts, imagination, and spirit as you notice the world around you.

