

# Haiku Poetry

## Whole-class Starter

- In role, enter the class as a very studious literary type of character. Explain that you are going to teach the children about 'proper' poetry, poetry from another country. The poetry they are going to learn about is very serious and is called 'haiku poetry' and it comes from Japan. Read and show the children a selection of haiku poems and ask them what they notice about the poems. Explain that haiku poetry has three lines – the first line and third line have five syllables and the middle line has seven.
- Explain that in order to write such great poetry, the children need to know what a syllable is. Tell them that a syllable is a single unit of sound within a word and give an example. Ask the children to work with a

partner, and from out of your 'very sensible' briefcase, pull a laminated



His wishes were heard,  
"A man once more you shall be!"  
The man was content.

'Haiku' is a form  
of Japanese  
poetry.

picture with a word written underneath. Ask the children to discuss with their partner how many syllables they think are in the word. Explain

that when you say 'Ready steady syllable', they should hold up the correct number of fingers for syllables. Check their responses and repeat several times. Deal with any misconceptions.



## Focus of Learning

To develop an understanding of poetry from other cultures  
To identify syllables within words

- Play 'Hunt the Haiku'. Prepare a set of laminated A4 sheets with several examples of haiku poetry. Ensure that only one of them is a correct haiku, the others should contain mistakes, such as four lines instead of three, too many syllables or not enough syllables. Divide the children into small groups and give each group a sheet of poems. Together the children must look at the poems and hunt for the one which is the haiku. Discuss their responses. Once they have established which poem is the haiku, they must guess what the haiku is about.